

No. 8.



October - December,  
1914.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics.  
Labour and Industrial Branch  
Melbourne, Australia.

# LABOUR BULLETIN

(PUBLISHED QUARTERLY)

Prepared under Instructions from the  
Minister of State for Home Affairs.

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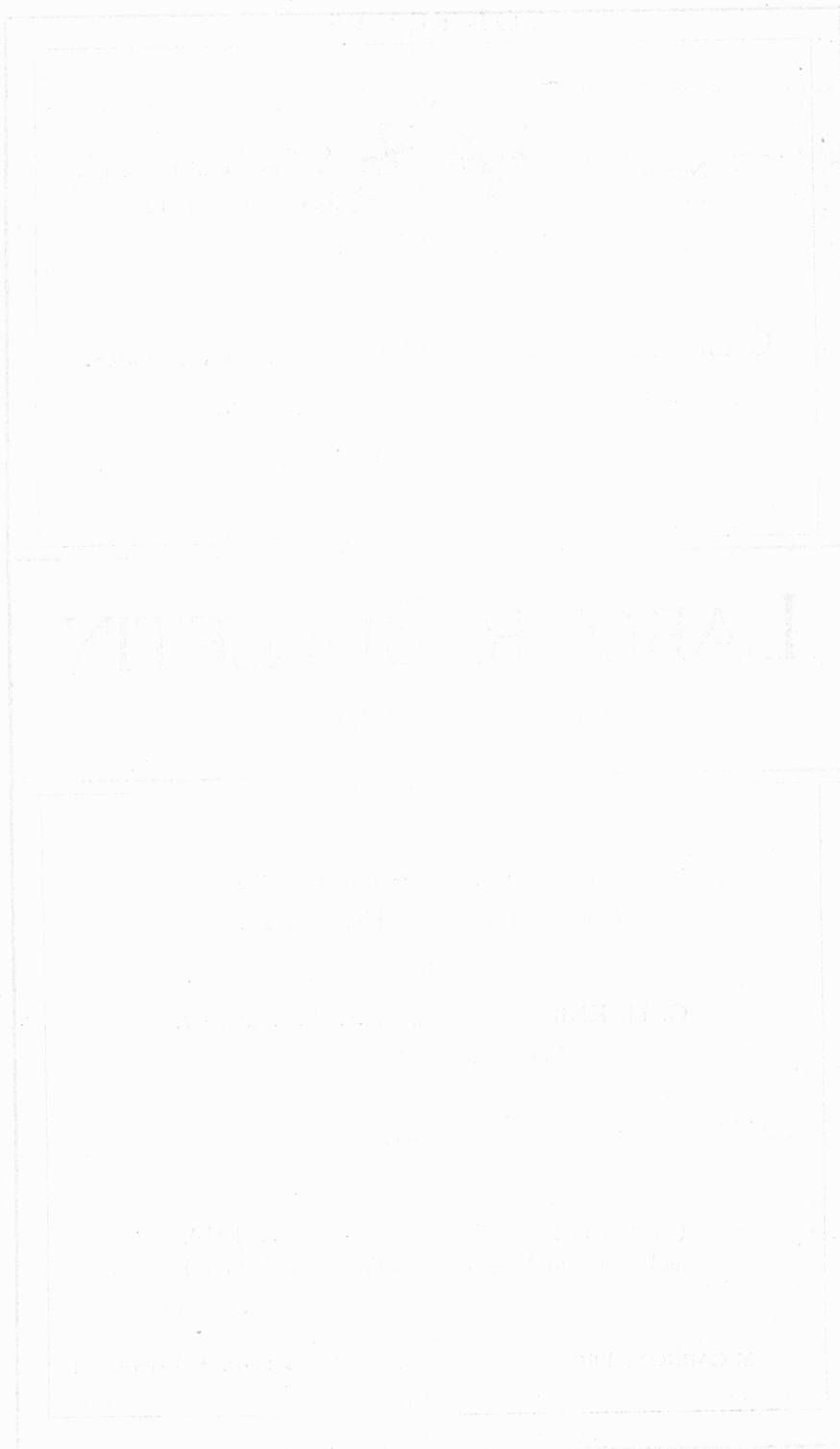
March, 1915.

(Containing Summarised Figures for Year 1914,  
and Index to Vol. II., Bulletins Nos. 5 to 8.)

By Authority:

McCARRON, BIRD & CO., Printers, 479 Collins Street, Melbourne.

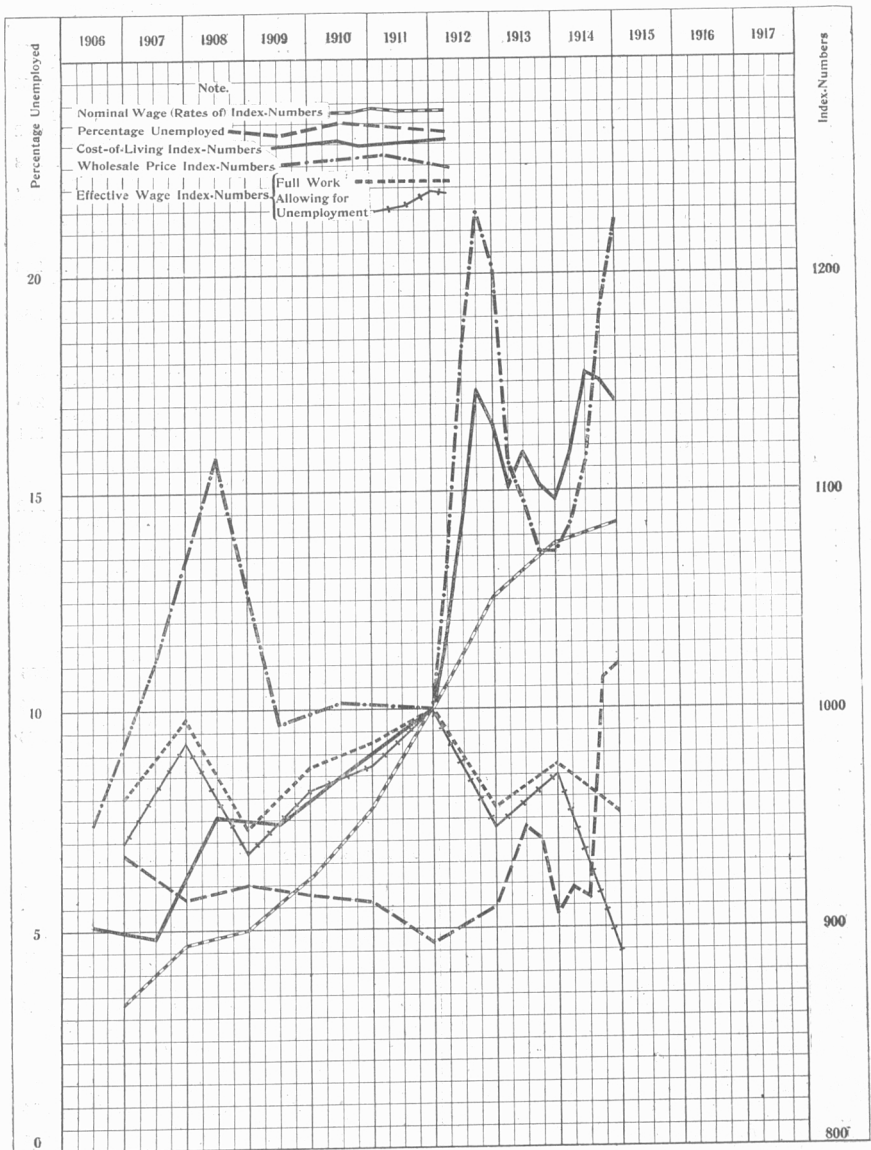




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# Cost of Living, Wholesale Prices, and Nominal and Effective Wage Index-Numbers and Percentage of Unemployed.



EXPLANATORY NOTE.—The figures on the left represent the scale for the percentage of persons unemployed according to trade union returns. The figures on the right represent the scale for the several index-numbers, the year 1911 being taken in each case as base (= 1000). Since the end of the year 1911 the index-numbers for cost of living (average for the six metropolitan towns) and for wholesale prices (Melbourne) are shewn each quarter, while unemployment percentages are shewn quarterly since the end of the year 1912 only. Unemployment figures for previous years are shewn as at the end of each year, while other index-numbers refer to the average for the whole year. Nominal and effective wage index-numbers are only computed annually. It should be observed that the cost-of-living and wholesale price index-numbers since the year 1911 shew the average level during the whole of each quarter; but for purposes of convenience they have, however, been plotted on the graph as at the end, and not the middle, of each quarter.

# LABOUR BULLETIN.

No. 8.—OCTOBER to DECEMBER, 1914.

(Containing Summarised Results for the Year 1914.)

## SECTION I.—INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS.

1. **General.**—Returns received from the secretaries of trade unions shew that unemployment in the Commonwealth increased from the third to the fourth quarter of 1914 from 10.7 to 11.0 per cent., the corresponding percentage in the last quarter (October to December) of 1913 being 5.3. The increase was common to all the States except New South Wales and Western Australia. As regards industrial groups, however, the returns classified for the whole Commonwealth indicate that the increase was confined to Groups I. (Wood, Furniture, etc.), II. (Engineering, Metal Works, etc.), Group V. (Books, Printing, etc.), and Group VII. (Building), the percentages in all other groups shewing a decrease since the third quarter of 1914. Compared with the corresponding quarter (October to December) of 1913, unemployment in the quarter under review was greater in all the States and in all industrial groups, with the exception of Group VIII. (Mining). The completion of the results for the last quarter of 1914 enables comparisons to be made for the whole of that year. In making such comparisons, it should, however, be observed that the returns for years prior to 1913 relate to the percentage unemployed at the end of the year, and therefore do not take into account variations in employment and unemployment during the year owing to seasonal activity and other causes. The returns collected for each quarter of 1913 and 1914 shew that these variations are considerable. The percentage returned as unemployed in the fourth quarter of 1914 was 11.0, compared with 5.3 for the end of the year 1913, and 5.5 at the end of 1912, and was greater than the percentage for the corresponding period of any year for which records are available.

In addition to the usual information and statistical tables published in this Bulletin, the present issue contains several special Sections. The result of the second annual investigation into the relative cost of living in 100 towns in the Commonwealth is given in Section IV. Particulars of current rates of wages have been brought up to the end of the year 1914, and summarised results are given in Section VIII., tabulated in States and industries. Index-numbers shewing variations in nominal and effective wages are published in Section IX. A review of the operations under the various Commonwealth and State Acts under which wages and hours and conditions of labour are regulated, is given in Section X., while in Section XV. an historical and statistical review is given of the operation of the various provisions which have been made by Commonwealth and State legislation for the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes by means of conciliation.

NOTE.—The Labour Bulletin, in its accounts of proceedings, abstracts of reports, legal decisions, quotations and other matters of concern to labour, is not to be regarded as expressing an official endorsement of any of the views or opinions contained therein.

**2. Weather Conditions and Rural Industries.**—The improved outlook as to the condition of stock and crops consequent upon the general rains of November and December was discounted by the scarcity of rain during January and February. Harvesting operations have been completed throughout the Commonwealth, and the results shew that the estimates as to reduced yields were by no means overstated. At the present time the outlook is again serious throughout the greater part of the Commonwealth. In New South Wales it is reported that stock is only just able to keep in condition and that the summer crops are failures. In Victoria the conditions over the pastoral areas are said to be steadily becoming worse, and losses of stock to be very considerable. Queensland does not appear to be suffering so severely as the other States, as reports shew that over the greater part of that State stock and crops are in good condition, though more rain is needed. In South Australia the harvest is said to have been a complete failure, farmers in many cases not reaping sufficient for seed. The fruit crop is also said to be poor. Western Australia experienced exceptionally heavy rains in January, and though they were too late, of course, to affect the harvest, which was in many places a complete failure, they have provided water and feed for stock, which is reported to be generally in fair to good condition. In Tasmania the reports received shew that the rainfalls of November and December considerably improved the condition in the pastoral and agricultural industries. The lack of rain during January and February, however, was responsible for a reversion to drought conditions throughout the greater part of the State. Grass is reported to be scarce, stock in poor condition, and the prospects generally far from satisfactory.

**3. Variations in Prices and Cost of Living.**—The completion of the returns for the last quarter of 1914 enables comparisons to be made between the whole of that year and preceding years. In 1912 there was a phenomenal rise in the cost of living, amounting to no less than 10 per cent. The index-number for the whole of the year 1913 shewed that the rise was not continued during that year, the average being practically the same as that for the year 1912. The average for 1914, however, again shews an increase in cost of living, amounting to 3.1 per cent. Prices of food and groceries were 4.5 per cent., and house rents 1.5 per cent., higher than in 1913. The increase in cost of living in 1914, compared with 1911 was 14.0 per cent., food and groceries shewing an increase of 14.4 per cent., and house rents 13.5 per cent. During the last quarter of 1914 the cost-of-living index-number for thirty of the more important towns in the Commonwealth was 1031, compared with 1040 in the preceding quarter, and 992 in the corresponding quarter of 1913. The decrease during the last quarter of 1914 was due to a fall in the prices of dairy produce and in house rents, which more than counterbalanced increases in the prices of bread, groceries, etc.

**4. Wholesale Prices.**—The general level of wholesale prices shews that there was an increase during the fourth quarter of 1914, compared with the preceding quarter. The index-number for the fourth quarter of 1914 was 1225, compared with 1185 in the preceding quarter, and 1072 for the fourth quarter of 1913. The results for the whole of the year shews that wholesale, in common with retail prices, advanced during 1914. The wholesale increase was 5.6 per cent.,

compared with 3.1 per cent. in retail prices. This affords a further confirmation of the conclusions arrived at in connection with these investigations that fluctuations in prices are generally more violent in the case of wholesale than of retail prices (see Report No. 5, page 40).

5. **Industrial Disputes.**—The number of disputes which began during the quarter under review was 78, compared with 63 in the preceding quarter. Of this number, 65 occurred in New South Wales. In the new disputes, 9704 persons were directly, and 5069 indirectly, involved, giving a total of 14,773. The total number of working days lost in new disputes was 48,558, and in addition 152,012 working days were lost through disputes which began before the fourth quarter of 1914, and which were unsettled at the end of the third quarter. The total loss in wages in both old and new disputes was £99,631, which is less than the loss occasioned during any previous quarter of 1914. The principal disputes during the quarter occurred in New South Wales, those occurring in the other States being small in number and of a comparatively insignificant character. Summarised results are given in Section VI. hereof for the whole of the years 1913 and 1914. It will be seen that the number of disputes, as well as the number of working hours and amount of wages lost, was considerably greater in 1914 than in 1913.

6. **Changes in Rates of Wages.**—The number of changes (all of which, with the exception of 5, were increases) recorded during the year 1914 was 368, compared with 329 (all increases) in the preceding year. The number of persons affected in 1914 was 118,140, and in 1913, 166,132; while the total amount of increase per week was £29,117 in 1914 and £37,713 in 1913. Owing to the number of persons affected being smaller in 1914 than in 1913, the average increase per head per week was greater in 1914 (4s. 11d.) than in 1913 (4s. 6d.). The number of changes recorded during the fourth quarter of 1914 was 84, of which 79 were increases and 5 decreases. The number of persons benefiting through the 363 increases was 14,793, and the number affected by the 5 decreases was only 272. The largest number of persons affected in any single industrial group was in Group VII. (Building). The net result of the 84 changes shews the average amount of increase per head per week to be 4s. 11d.

7. **Miscellaneous.**—During the quarter, 3915 selected and nominated immigrants, comprising 1741 dependants, arrived in the Commonwealth, compared with 5025 in the previous quarter. The greatest number, 1503, arrived in Victoria. As regards occupations, 995 of the males are classified in the agricultural, pastoral, etc., group, while 610 of the females are domestic servants. The total number of immigrants arriving in the Commonwealth during 1914 was less than for any year since 1910. It is less than half the number arriving in 1912, and only just over half the number arriving in either of the years 1911 or 1913. The number of fatal accidents reported during the quarter was 40, compared with 34 in the preceding quarter, and of accidents causing incapacitation from work for over 14 days, 986, compared with 1285 in the preceding quarter. The total number of fatal accidents in the year 1914 was 159, compared with 185 in 1913, while the number of accidents causing incapacitation for over 14 days was 4912 in 1914, as against 5030 in 1913. By far the greatest number of accidents occurred in the mining industry.

## SECTION II.—UNEMPLOYMENT.

1. **General.**—Returns as to unemployment for the quarter ended 31st December, 1914, were received from 439 trade unions, having a membership of 250,716. The number unemployed was 27,610, or 11.0 per cent., compared with 10.7 per cent. for the preceding quarter (July to September), 5.3 per cent. for the corresponding quarter (October to December) of 1913, and 5.5 per cent. for the end of 1912. The percentages of unemployment for years prior to 1913 refer to the end of the year only, and not to intermediate quarters, when the percentages may have been greater, especially during the winter months, than those recorded at the end of the year. The following table shews the number of unions reporting as to unemployment, their membership, and the number and percentage unemployed. The returns do not include persons out of work through strikes or lockouts.

**Unemployment.—Number of Unions and Members Reporting, and Number and Percentage Unemployed, 1891 to 1914 (4th Quarter).**

PARTICULARS.	Unions.	Membership.	UNEMPLOYED.	
			Number.	Percentage.
1891 .. .. .	25	6,445	599	9.3
1896 .. .. .	25	4,227	457	10.8
1901 .. .. .	39	8,710	574	6.6
1906 .. .. .	47	11,299	753	6.7
1907 .. .. .	51	13,179	757	5.7
1908 .. .. .	68	18,685	1,117	6.0
1909 .. .. .	84	21,122	1,223	5.8
1910 .. .. .	109	32,995	1,857	5.6
1911 .. .. .	160	67,961	3,171	4.7
1912 .. .. .	464	224,023	12,441	5.5
1913, 1st Quarter* ..	451	237,216	15,234	6.4
2nd „ * ..	458	243,523	17,854	7.3
3rd „ * ..	472	252,325	17,698	7.0
4th „ * ..	465	251,207	13,430	5.3
1914, 1st „ * ..	462	262,133	15,541	5.9
2nd „ * ..	467	279,318	15,856	5.7
3rd „ * ..	466	283,584	30,367	10.7
4th „ * ..	439	250,716	27,610	11.0

\* For years prior to 1913 the figures refer to the end of the year only, and not to separate quarters. The quarterly figures shew the number of persons who were out of work for three days or more during a specified week in each quarter; they do not include persons out of work through strikes or lockouts.

It may be seen that the average percentage for the year 1914 (that is, the mean of the four quarters) is 8.3. The year 1913 was the first for which returns were collected quarterly, and the average percentage for that year was 6.5. The increase in 1914 compared with 1913 is due to the high percentages recorded for the third and fourth quarters of 1914, resulting from the abnormal conditions arising from the war and the drought. The percentage unemployed for the first and second quarters of 1914 were less than for the corresponding quarters of 1913. There was a decline in unemployment from 1906 to 1911, the latter year having the lowest percentage recorded in the returns collected by this Bureau.

The percentages given in the above table are shewn in the graph on page 210 hereinbefore. During the quarter under review there



was an increase in the percentage unemployed in Groups I. (Wood, Furniture, etc.), II. (Engineering, Metal Works, etc.), V. (Books, Printing, etc.), and VII. (Building), and a decrease in the remaining groups. The aggregate result for all industries shews an increase in Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania, and a decrease in New South Wales and Western Australia.

**2. Unemployment in Different States for Quarter ended 31st December, 1914.**—Of the 439 organisations reporting unemployment, the largest number (127 unions with 104,307 members) was in New South Wales, Victoria (with 109 unions and 79,946 members) coming next. As pointed out in the previous issues of this Bulletin, the industrial occupations of the people, as well as the extent to which the different industries are represented in the returns, vary considerably in the several States. Any comparisons, therefore, that are drawn between these results are necessarily subject to the qualification that the figures relate to some extent to different classes of industry.

In the following table particulars are given for the quarter ended the 31st December last, as to the number and percentage unemployed, and the increase or decrease compared with the preceding quarter (July to September 1914), and with the corresponding quarter (October to December) of 1913:—

**Unemployment in different States for Quarter ended 31st December, 1914.**

STATE.	Number Reporting.		Unemployed.		Percentage Unemployed in—		Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (—) Compared with—	
	Unions.	Members.	Number	Percentage.	3rd Qrt. 1914.	4th Qrt. 1913.	3rd Qrt. 1914.	4th Qrt. 1913.
New South Wales ..	127	104,307	7,244	<b>6.9</b>	9.3	4.5	—2.4	+ 2.4
Victoria ..	109	79,946	11,300	<b>14.1</b>	11.3	5.8	+2.8	+ 8.3
Queensland ..	50	24,688	4,357	<b>17.7</b>	14.3	4.4	+3.4	+13.3
South Australia ..	43	12,808	1,766	<b>13.8</b>	13.6	8.7	+0.2	+ 5.1
Western Australia ..	73	24,243	2,079	<b>8.6</b>	9.2	4.7	—0.6	+ 3.9
Tasmania ..	37	4,724	864	<b>18.3</b>	13.4	4.9	+4.9	+13.4
COMMONWEALTH ..	439	250,716	27,610	<b>11.0</b>	10.7	5.3	+0.3	+ 5.7

The decrease in unemployment in New South Wales is general throughout all industries, with the exception of Group V. (Books, Printing, etc.), and Group VII. (Building). As regards the building trades it is stated that towards the end of the quarter some improvement took place, and that the prospects for the future were brighter than at the beginning of the quarter. In Victoria, the percentage unemployed increased in all groups except Group III. (Hats, Clothing, Boots, etc.). In this group the boot trade was said to be bad, but increased activity in the clothing section was reported, due to orders for military and naval purposes and the Christmas trade. The increase in unemployment in Queensland is said to be due principally to the closing down at the end of the season of the sugar mills, and of a number of meat works. In South Australia, timber workers and those engaged in the iron trades report a falling-off in employment since the preceding quarter. In Western Australia, the timber workers



have experienced a period of activity, due to the fact that the State Government had in hand a contract for the supply of sleepers for the Trans-continental railway. It is stated, however, that in January, owing to the completion of this contract, and overseas orders being either cancelled or held up, the Government found it necessary to dispense with a large number of men. The building trades and the mining industry report an increase in unemployment. With reference to the latter industry, it is reported that the conditions in gold mining were good, but that some of the tin and lead mines were closed down. There is said to have been an influx of men to the goldfields from other parts of the colony. In Tasmania, it is reported that most of the sawmills in the country districts have closed down, and consequently there is a large increase in the number of unemployed in this Industry. In the jam making industry the prospects are said to be poor, and the season late. On the other hand, in the iron, clothing, printing, and mining industries an improvement is reported.

**3. Unemployment in Different Industries.**—The following table shews the percentages unemployed in several of the fourteen industrial groups. Information as to classification of these groups is given in Labour Report No. 5, page 6. It may be observed that for those industries in which unemployment is either unusually stable, or on the other hand, exceptionally casual, information as to unemployment cannot ordinarily be obtained from trade unions. Hence, certain industries such as railways, shipping, agricultural, pastoral, etc., and domestic, hotels, etc., are insufficiently represented in the returns. Particulars are not, therefore, shewn separately for these groups, such returns as are available being included in the last group, "Other and Miscellaneous." For purposes of comparison particulars are included in the table as to the percentage unemployed in the quarter immediately preceding (third quarter of 1914), and the corresponding quarter last year (fourth quarter 1913). The increase or decrease in the percentages for the current quarter, as compared with each of these preceding quarters, is also given:—

**Unemployment in different Industries for the Quarter ended 31st December, 1914.**

INDUSTRIAL GROUP.	Number Reporting.		Unem- ployed.		Percentage Returned as Unem- ployed.		Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (—) compared with—	
	Unions.	Members.	Number.	Percentage.	3rd Quarter, 1914.	4th Quarter, 1913.	3rd Quarter, 1914.	4th Quarter, 1913.
I.—Wood, Furniture, etc. . .	19	13,591	2,132	15.7	10.4	3.6	+ 5.3	+ 12.1
II.—Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . .	56	34,763	4,447	12.8	11.7	7.1	+ 1.1	+ 5.7
III.—Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. . .	52	26,739	3,285	12.3	13.3	5.6	+ 1.0	+ 6.7
IV.—Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. . .	26	17,109	1,760	10.3	12.9	1.8	+ 2.6	+ 8.5
V.—Books, Printing, etc. . .	22	6,681	430	6.4	4.9	2.5	+ 1.5	+ 3.9
VI.—Other Manufacturing . . .	67	22,439	2,170	9.7	10.7	6.5	+ 1.0	+ 3.2
VII.—Building . . .	51	24,931	3,207	12.9	7.9	3.9	+ 5.0	+ 9.0
VIII.—Mining, Quarrying, etc. . .	22	29,594	2,425	8.2	8.3	8.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.6
X.—Other Land Transport . . .	16	9,698	446	4.6	4.8	2.1	+ 0.2	+ 2.5
IX., XI., XII., XIII. and XIV.— Other and Miscellaneous . .	108	65,171	7,308	11.2	12.8	5.2	+ 1.6	+ 6.0
ALL GROUPS . . . . .	439	250,716	27,610	11.0	10.7	5.3	+ 0.3	+ 5.7

It may be seen that when compared with the immediately preceding quarter there is an increase in Group I. (Wood, Furniture, etc.), Group II. (Engineering, Metal Works, etc.), Group V. (Books, Printing, etc.), and Group VII. (Building). The other groups shew a decrease. The increase in Group I. is due to a large increase in Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, the other States shewing a decrease. In Group II., Victoria and South Australia shew large increases, the other States shewing decreases. In Groups V. and VII., all the States shew an increase of unemployment.

**4. Causes of Unemployment.**—Particulars as to causes of unemployment, classified under three main heads, are available for the third quarter of the current year for 436 unions, having a membership of 244,983. The following table shews that of a total number of 27,327 out the work, 24,839 were unemployed through lack of work, 1787 through sickness and accident, and 701 through other causes (except persons on strike or lockout):—

**Unemployment according to Causes for the various Industries, States, and Commonwealth, Quarter ended 31st December, 1914.**

PARTICULARS.	Mem- bers.	Lack of Work.		Sickness and Accident.		Other Causes.		TOTAL.	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.									
I.—Wood, Furniture, etc. . .	13,591	2,010	14.8	118	0.9	4	..	2,132	15.7
II.—Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . .	32,170	3,753	11.6	218	0.7	253	0.8	4,224	13.1
III.—Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. . .	26,739	3,126	11.7	127	0.5	32	0.1	3,285	12.3
IV.—Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. . .	17,109	1,658	9.7	40	0.2	62	0.4	1,760	10.3
V.—Books, Printing, etc. . .	6,681	375	5.6	31	0.5	24	0.4	430	6.4
VI.—Other Manufacturing . . .	22,439	1,937	8.6	192	0.9	41	0.2	2,170	9.7
VII.—Building . . .	24,931	3,042	12.2	111	0.5	54	0.2	3,207	12.9
VIII.—Mining, Quarrying, etc. . .	29,594	1,844	6.3	577	1.9	4	..	2,425	8.2
X.—Other Land Transport . . .	9,698	367	3.8	66	0.7	13	0.1	446	4.6
IX., XI., XII., XIII., and XIV.—Other and Miscellaneous . . .	62,031	6,727	10.8	307	0.5	214	0.3	7,248	11.7
ALL GROUPS . . . . .	244,983	24,839	10.1	1,787	0.7	701	0.3	27,327	11.1

CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO STATES.

New South Wales . . . . .	98,574	5,871	6.0	760	0.8	330	0.3	6,961	7.1
Victoria . . . . .	79,946	10,535	13.2	516	0.6	249	0.3	11,300	14.1
Queensland . . . . .	24,688	4,224	17.2	99	0.4	34	0.1	4,357	17.7
South Australia . . . . .	12,808	1,617	12.6	103	0.8	46	0.4	1,766	13.8
Western Australia . . . . .	24,243	1,785	7.4	271	1.1	23	0.1	2,079	8.6
Tasmania . . . . .	4,724	807	17.1	38	0.8	19	0.4	864	18.3
COMMONWEALTH . . . . .	244,983	24,839	10.1	1,787	0.7	701	0.3	27,327	11.1

The first part of the above table shews the number unemployed for the causes given, classified according to industries; the second, classified according to States.

The percentage of unemployment due to "lack of work" was 10.1, compared with 9.6 in the preceding quarter. The percentage unemployed through sickness and accident was 0.7, compared with 0.8 in the preceding quarter, and the percentage unemployed through other causes (excluding strikes and lockouts) was 0.3, compared with 0.2 in the preceding quarter. Of the total amount of unemployment, 90.9 per cent. was due to "lack of work," 6.5 per cent. to "sickness and accident," and 2.6 per cent. to "other causes." As in other quarters, Western Australia shews the greatest percentage of unemployment through sickness and accident, while the percentage unemployed from this cause is nearly three times as great in Group VIII. (Mining) as in any other industry.

**5. Monthly Returns of Unemployment.**—Prior to the outbreak of war, returns of unemployment were collected quarterly, but in August last, with a view to keeping the situation more satisfactorily under review, arrangements were made for the investigation to be carried out monthly. Though the secretaries of the unions at first made a satisfactory response to the inquiries, since November, 1914, there has been a considerable falling-off in the number of returns received. Owing to this fact the accuracy of the results for December and January for purposes of comparison with preceding months is somewhat uncertain. In the following table particulars are given as to unemployment for the months of November and December, 1914, and January, 1915. The percentage of unemployment in November was 11.0, but by the end of December, according to the smaller number of returns received, it increased to 12.7, and at the end of January to 13.1.

**Unemployment.—Number of Unions and Members Reporting, and Number and Percentage Unemployed, 1913, 1914, and 1915.**

PARTICULARS.	Unions.	Membership.	UNEMPLOYED.	
			Number.	Percentage.
1913, February* ..	451	237,216	15,234	6.4
May* ..	458	243,523	17,854	7.3
August* ..	472	252,325	17,698	7.0
November* ..	465	251,207	13,430	5.3
1914, February* ..	462	262,133	15,541	5.9
May* ..	467	279,318	15,856	5.7
August* ..	466	283,584	30,367	10.7
September† ..	409	232,032	29,842	12.7
October† ..	406	234,500	26,266	11.2
November* ..	439	250,716	27,610	11.0
December† ..	351	182,778	23,195	12.7†
1915, January† ..	320	154,239	20,199	13.1†

\* Quarterly returns. The quarterly figures shew the number of persons who were out of work for three days or more during a specified week in each quarter; they do not include persons out of work through strikes or lockouts. † Monthly returns.

NOTE.—Owing to the smaller number of unions for which returns are available, the accuracy of these results for purposes of comparison with preceding months is somewhat uncertain.

## SECTION III.—RETAIL PRICES, HOUSE RENT, AND COST OF LIVING.

1. **General.**—During the last three months of the year 1914 the cost-of-living index-number for the thirty towns for which particulars are collected shews a decrease since the preceding quarter from 1040 to 1031, the index-number for the corresponding quarter (October to December) of 1913 being 992. The completion of the figures for the last quarter enables results to be given for the whole of the year 1914, and summarised figures for that year are accordingly included in several of the tables given in this section. The following table furnishes quarterly comparisons for the whole thirty towns from the time when the current investigations were initiated (1st January, 1912):—

Cost-of-Living Quarterly Index-Numbers.—Average for Thirty Towns, 1912 to 1914.

Particulars.	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.	Whole Year.
1912 ..	947	988	1,037	1,027	1,000*
1913 ..	998	1,012	998	992	1,000
1914 ..	1,009	1,043	1,040	1,031	1,031

\* Basis of Table.

The cost-of-living index-number is lower for the current quarter than for the preceding quarter in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia, and higher in Queensland and Tasmania. The increase in both Queensland and Tasmania is due to a rise in the price of meat. In each of the quarters of 1914 the cost-of-living index-number was higher than in the corresponding quarter of either 1912 or 1913. Prices of groceries were higher in 1914 than in 1913, but lower than in 1912, in all the States. Prices of dairy produce were higher in 1914 than in 1913 in all the States except Western Australia, but were lower in 1914 than in 1912 in all except New South Wales and Tasmania. Prices of meat were higher in 1914 than in either 1912 or 1913 in all the States. House rents continued to rise\* in all the States except South Australia and Western Australia, where the index-numbers were lower in 1914 than in 1913. The only State in which the index-number for house rents was lower in 1914 than in 1912 is South Australia.

Particulars of the cost-of-living index-numbers in each State for the years 1912, 1913, and 1914, as well as for the fourth quarter of 1914, are shewn in the following table. For purposes of comparison, similar particulars are given for the quarter immediately preceding (July to September, 1914), and also for the corresponding quarter

\* This applies to the average annual rent. Quarterly index-numbers of house rent shew a general decrease at the end of 1914.

(October to December) of 1913. A departure has been made from the method of fixing the base index-number adopted in previous Bulletins. Hitherto each town or State, as the case may be (according to whether the results shewn in the table are for individual towns or States only), has been treated separately, the average expenditure in 1912 for each such town or for the various towns combined being taken as a separate base (= 1000) for each town or State. The index-numbers given for each town or State separately were, of course, comparable in so far as variations in cost in each town or State are concerned, but were not comparable in respect to the relative cost as between each such town or State, for the reason that the cost in 1912 was made equal to 1000 in each town or State, as the case might be. Owing to confusion having arisen in the minds of some persons as to the interpretation of these index-numbers, it has been decided to furnish results in future which are comparable throughout. In the following table the weighted aggregate expenditure for the whole of the towns in 1912 is accordingly taken as base (= 1000), the figures for that year (as well as other years) for the individual States shewing the relative cost of living as between the respective States. The result is that the index-numbers given herein are comparable in all respects, that is to say, they shew not only the variations from year to year in each State, but they also furnish comparisons as to the relative cost in the different States, either in any given year or as between one year and another, and one State and another.

**Cost-of-Living Index-Numbers for each State and Commonwealth,† October to December, 1914.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
Average for 1912 ..	1,042	956	908	1,042	1,103	937	<b>1,000*</b>
„ 1913 ..	1,070	947	888	1,014	1,072	932	1,000
„ 1914 ..	<b>1,092</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>1,088</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>1,031</b>
Quarter—							
Oct. to Dec., 1913	1,065	937	891	990	1,064	920	992
July „ Sept., 1914	1,095	1,007	920	1,053	1,108	969	1,040
Oct. „ Dec., 1914	<b>1,083</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>1,103</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>1,031</b>

\* Basis of Table.

† Weighted average in each State for the five towns specified in paragraph 3 hereinafter.

**2. Variations in Retail Price and House Rent Index-numbers 1912, 1913, and 1914.**—The table in the preceding paragraph shews the aggregate effect on the cost-of-living index-numbers for each State of variations in prices of commodities and house rent. These commodities are divided into three groups, and the following table shews the index-number for each group and house rent separately, compared with the quarter immediately preceding, the corresponding quarter of 1913, and with the average for the whole of the years 1912, 1913, and 1914:—

Cost-of-Living Index-Numbers for each State, October to December, 1914.  
Weighted Average Expenditure in each Group for Thirty Towns in 1912 as  
Base (= 1000).

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth.
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## I.—GROCERIES.

Average for 1912 ..	1,018	934	1,080	1,001	1,118	1,013	1,000*
„ 1913 ..	977	842	998	917	1,027	919	928
„ 1914 ..	<b>979</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>1,060</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>942</b>
Quarter—							
Oct. to Dec., 1913	952	810	990	887	1,002	900	902
July „ Sept., 1914	970	877	966	919	1,087	910	939
Oct. „ Dec., 1914	<b>1,005</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>986</b>

## II.—DAIRY PRODUCE.

Average for 1912 ..	992	956	947	1,069	1,235	971	1,000*
„ 1913 ..	991	903	895	1,040	1,186	942	970
„ 1914 ..	<b>1,006</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>1,066</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>997</b>
Quarter—							
Oct. to Dec., 1913	970	878	888	981	1,158	906	943
July „ Sept., 1914	1,002	943	899	1,058	1,168	1,037	991
Oct. „ Dec., 1914	<b>952</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>1,155</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>960</b>

## III.—MEAT.

Average for 1912 ..	959	979	863	968	1,463	1,143	1,000*
„ 1913 ..	1,045	997	853	1,030	1,426	1,200	1,042
„ 1914 ..	<b>1,105</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>1,278</b>	<b>1,501</b>	<b>1,281</b>	<b>1,147</b>
Quarter—							
Oct. to Dec., 1913	1,026	986	853	1,050	1,427	1,215	1,034
July „ Sept., 1914	1,123	1,141	1,046	1,362	1,580	1,310	1,186
Oct. „ Dec., 1914	<b>1,119</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>1,296</b>	<b>1,552</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>1,174</b>

## IV.—HOUSE RENT.†

Average for 1912 ..	1,119	962	781	1,094	871	774	1,000*
„ 1913 ..	1,185	1,023	819	1,070	911	810	1,048
„ 1914 ..	<b>1,208</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>1,061</b>
Quarter—							
Oct. to Dec., 1913	1,211	1,036	834	1,044	905	811	1,061
July „ Sept., 1914	1,219	1,073	838	1,014	888	830	1,073
Oct. „ Dec., 1914	<b>1,183</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>1,033</b>

\* Basis of Table

† See remarks on page 222 paragraph (iv.).

As regards variations in average prices during the whole of the year 1914, compared with 1913 and 1912, the increases and decreases in each group and in all groups taken together are shewn in the following statement:—

**Cost of Living in Thirty Towns.—Percentage of Average Increase or Decrease\* in each Group in 1914, compared with 1913 and 1912.**

Increase or Decrease* in 1914 compared with—	Groceries.	Dairy Produce.	Meat.	Rent.	Groceries, Food, and Rent.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1912 .. .. .	—5.8	—0.3	14.7	6.1	3.1
1913 .. .. .	1.5	2.8	10.1	1.2	3.1

\* The negative sign indicates a decrease.

The identity in the figures (3.1 per cent.) shewing the increase in 1914, compared with 1913 and 1912, is, of course, due to the fact that there was no change in the average cost-of-living index-numbers for 1912 and 1913 for the thirty towns taken together.

(i) *Groceries*.—During the fourth quarter of 1914 there was an increase in the index-numbers for this group in all the States, due to a general rise throughout the Commonwealth in the prices of flour and potatoes. Bread also rose in price in several towns in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. The increase in this group since the preceding quarter was greatest in Tasmania (8.2 per cent.), and least in Western Australia (2.9 per cent.).

(ii.) *Dairy Produce*.—Index-numbers in this group are lower in all the States owing to a general decline in the prices of butter, cheese, and eggs, and in some towns of milk also. New South Wales shews the greatest decrease (5.0 per cent.), and Western Australia the least (1.1 per cent.).

(iii.) *Meat*.—The index-numbers for this group shew a decline when compared with the preceding quarter in all the States except Queensland and Tasmania. The decline was greatest in Victoria (3.0 per cent.). In Queensland the increase amounted to no less than 9.8 per cent., but in Tasmania it was only 0.4 per cent.

(iv.) *House Rents*.—During the quarter under review there has been a general decline in house rents, amounting in the aggregate to as much as 3.7 per cent. The index-numbers are lower in all the States except Tasmania. In that State house rents increased slightly in Hobart, but declined in the other towns, the index-number for the whole State shewing an increase of 0.2 per cent. The decline in rents during the quarter was greatest in South Australia (9.1 per cent.), followed in the order named by Victoria (4.3 per cent.), New South Wales (3.0 per cent.), Western Australia (2.4 per cent.), and Queensland (2.0 per cent.).

It should be observed that in Broken Hill and Port Pirie prevailing conditions have rendered it a matter of difficulty, if not of impossibility, to ascertain the predominant rents with precision. In



these towns a number of houses were occupied at purely nominal rents by families of which the wage earners were out of employment. In other cases only half the usual rents were being paid, one week's rent being accepted for a fortnight's tenancy. Special inquiries have been made as to the number and proportion of houses of different sizes for which full rent, half rent, quarter rent, etc., and merely nominal rents were being paid, and the predominant rents in these towns have been computed accordingly.

**3. Variations in Cost of Living in each of Thirty Towns, 1912, 1913, and 1914.**—In the following table index-numbers are given for the fourth quarter of 1914, the preceding quarter (July to September, 1914), and the corresponding quarter (October to December) of 1913. The average index-numbers for the whole of the years 1912, 1913, and 1914 are included for comparative purposes. The index-numbers for the fourth quarter of 1914 are lower than for the quarter immediately preceding in all States except Queensland and Tasmania, the aggregate result for the whole of the thirty towns being a decrease of less than 1 per cent. Owing to the relatively large advance in price of meat in Queensland, there was an increase in the index-numbers for all towns in that State. Index-numbers for groceries advanced in all towns, while those for dairy produce, on the other hand, declined. Index-numbers for meat varied, prices in some towns rising, in others falling. Hobart is the only town in which house rent increased. Broadly speaking, in those towns for which the cost-of-living index-number rose since the preceding quarter, the effect of the increase in cost of groceries, and in some cases of meat also, was greater than that of the decrease in cost of dairy produce and house rents, while for those towns in which the index-number declined, the reverse is the case.

Compared with the corresponding quarter of 1913, all the towns shew an increase except Broken Hill. The decrease in this town is due to the abnormal conditions obtaining with regard to house rents, to which reference has already been made (see above). The increase in cost of living compared with the same period of 1913 is due to the increased cost of groceries, dairy produce, and meat. House rents are lower in all the States except Tasmania, but the decline has been more than counterbalanced by the rise in price of other items.

The weighted average cost-of-living index-number for the whole of the thirty towns was 3.1 per cent. higher in 1914 than in either 1912 or 1913. Compared with 1913, the increase in cost of living was greatest in Victoria (5 per cent.), and least in Western Australia (1.5 per cent.) Compared with 1912, the index-number is higher in New South Wales (4.8 per cent.), Victoria (4 per cent.), Tasmania (2.9 per cent.), and Queensland (0.8 per cent.). It is 1.4 per cent. lower in Western Australia, and 0.4 per cent. lower in South Australia.



Cost-of-Living Index-Numbers (Groceries, Food and House Rent), for each of Thirty Towns, 1912, 1913 and 1914, with Weighted Average for all Towns in 1912 as Base (= 1000).

Particulars.	1912.	1913.		1914.		
	Base for Whole Year (= 1000)	Whole Year.	4th Quarter. (Oct. to Dec.)	Whole Year.	3rd. Quarter (July to Sept)	4th Quarter (Oct. to Dec.)
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>						
Sydney .. ..	1,063	<b>1,091</b>	1,087	1,117	1,118	<b>1,114</b>
Newcastle .. ..	884	<b>913</b>	904	921	924	<b>927</b>
Broken Hill .. ..	1,000	<b>1,027</b>	1,029	989	1,042	<b>814§</b>
Goulburn .. ..	965	<b>1,006</b>	989	1,046	1,045	<b>1,061</b>
Bathurst .. ..	850	<b>880</b>	885	914	915	<b>902</b>
*Weighted Average ..	1,042	<b>1,070</b>	1,065	1,092	1,095	<b>1,083</b>
<b>VICTORIA—</b>						
Melbourne .. ..	977	<b>973</b>	965	1,023	1,037	<b>1,024</b>
Ballarat .. ..	846	<b>801</b>	783	837	852	<b>852</b>
Bendigo .. ..	857	<b>833</b>	803	854	863	<b>861</b>
Geelong .. ..	922	<b>899</b>	877	937	944	<b>958</b>
Warrnamboo .. ..	865	<b>865</b>	851	888	892	<b>897</b>
*Weighted Average ..	956	<b>947</b>	937	994	1,007	<b>997</b>
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>						
Brisbane .. ..	907	<b>897</b>	903	923	930	<b>942</b>
Toowoomba .. ..	904	<b>855</b>	853	880	873	<b>918</b>
Rockhampton .. ..	891	<b>870</b>	878	914	925	<b>938</b>
Charters Towers ..	933	<b>886</b>	875	914	906	<b>952</b>
Warwick .. ..	929	<b>859</b>	814	844	844	<b>861</b>
*Weighted Average ..	908	<b>888</b>	891	915	920	<b>938</b>
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>						
Adelaide .. ..	1,071	<b>1,038</b>	1,011	1,058	1,071	<b>1,039</b>
Kadina, Moonta, Walla- roo .. ..	849	<b>845</b>	837	889	909	<b>886</b>
Port Pirie .. ..	930	<b>931</b>	930	977	1,021	<b>934§</b>
Mt. Gambier .. ..	810	<b>814</b>	804	855	862	<b>871</b>
Petersburg .. ..	938	<b>948</b>	949	1,042	1,078	<b>1,037</b>
*Weighted Average ..	1,042	<b>1,014</b>	990	1,038	1,053	<b>1,020</b>
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>						
Perth .. ..	1,068	<b>1,044</b>	1,039	1,058	1,078	<b>1,066</b>
Kalgoorlie and Boulder	1,235	<b>1,176</b>	1,156	1,195	1,216	<b>1,235</b>
Mid. Jun. & Guildford	1,040	<b>1,019</b>	1,004	1,022	1,042	<b>1,038</b>
Bunbury .. ..	1,022	<b>1,002</b>	996	1,029	1,047	<b>1,048</b>
Geraldton .. ..	1,162	<b>1,166</b>	1,158	1,217	1,256	<b>1,204</b>
*Weighted Average ..	1,103	<b>1,072</b>	1,064	1,088	1,108	<b>1,103</b>
<b>TASMANIA—</b>						
Hobart .. ..	965	<b>975</b>	964	1,009	1,010	<b>1,030</b>
Launceston .. ..	925	<b>899</b>	888	938	949	<b>964</b>
Zeehan .. ..	881	<b>859</b>	832	831	825	<b>848</b>
Beaconsfield .. ..	766	<b>745</b>	724	752	766	<b>772</b>
Queenstown .. ..	915	<b>916</b>	903	945	958	<b>957</b>
*Weighted Average ..	937	<b>932</b>	920	964	969	<b>985</b>
† Weighted Average for Commonwealth ..	<b>1,000†</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,031</b>

\* Average for the five towns. † Average for thirty towns. ‡ Basis of Table, see Labour Report No. 5, pages 27 to 29. § See remarks on page 222, paragraph (iv.) *re* house-rent.

**4. Relative Cost of Living in Different Towns, October to December, 1914.**—In the following table the average expenditure on groceries, food, and house rent for the thirty towns considered as a whole has been taken as base and made to equal 20s. It will be seen that of every 20s. expended, on the average 12s. 5d. must be paid for groceries and food, and 7s. 7d. for rent. The figures given in this table are fully comparable throughout. Thus it may be seen that the same relative quantities of groceries and food, which cost 11s. 10d. in Melbourne, would cost 12s. 3d. in Sydney, 18s. 3d. in Kalgoorlie, 11s. 9d. in Ballarat, and 12s. 5d. on the average prices for all thirty towns. Similarly, compared with a relative payment of 9s. 5d. for housing accommodation in Sydney, in Melbourne only 8s. 1d. is paid, in Adelaide 7s. 1d., in Hobart 6s. 10d., and in Beaconsfield as little as 1s. 10d. Again, the last column (III.) shews the relative amount which must be paid in each town to secure such relative quantities of groceries and food, and to provide housing accommodation which would cost £1 on the average for all towns.

**Purchasing-Power of Money.**—Amounts necessary to purchase in each Town for the Fourth Quarter of 1914, Commodities and Housing Accommodation, which together cost £1 on the Average in the Thirty Towns regarded as a whole.

TOWNS.	I. Groceries and Food.	II. Rent.	III. Groceries Food & Rent.	TOWNS.	I. Groceries and Food.	II. Rent.	III. Groceries Food & Rent.
<b>New South Wales—</b>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	<b>South Australia—</b>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Sydney ..	12 3	9 5	21 8	Adelaide ..	13 1	7 1	20 2
Newcastle ..	12 3	5 9	18 0	Kadina, Moonta, Walleroo ..	12 10	4 5	17 3
Broken Hill ..	14 7	1 3†	15 10	Port Pirie ..	13 8	4 6†	18 2
Goulburn ..	12 6	8 1	20 7	Mt. Gambier ..	11 6	5 5	16 11
Bathurst ..	11 7	5 11	17 6	Petersburg ..	13 8	6 5	20 1
<b>*Weighted Average</b>	12 4	8 8	21 0	<b>*Weighted Average</b>	13 0	6 9	19 9
<b>Victoria—</b>				<b>Western Australia—</b>			
Melbourne ..	11 10	8 1	19 11	Perth and			
Ballarat ..	11 9	4 9	16 6	Fremantle ..	14 1	6 7	20 8
Bendigo ..	11 11	4 10	16 9	Kalgoorlie and			
Geelong ..	11 11	6 8	18 7	Boulder ..	18 3	5 8	23 11
Warrnambool	11 8	5 9	17 5	Midland Junction and Guildford	14 5	5 9	20 2
<b>*Weighted Average</b>	11 10	7 6	19 4	Bunbury ..	15 3	5 1	20 4
<b>Queensland—</b>				Geraldton ..	15 11	7 6	23 5
Brisbane ..	11 11	6 5	18 4	<b>*Weighted Average</b>	15 0	6 4	21 4
Toowoomba ..	12 2	5 8	17 10	<b>Tasmania—</b>			
Rockhampton ..	12 7	5 8	18 3	Hobart ..	13 2	6 10	20 0
Charters Towers	14 2	4 4	18 6	Launceston ..	12 5	6 4	18 9
Warwick ..	11 9	4 11	16 8	Zeelan ..	14 2	2 3	16 5
<b>*Weighted Average</b>	12 2	6 0	18 2	Beaconsfield ..	13 2	1 10	15 0
				Queenstown ..	13 11	4 8	18 7
				<b>*Weighted Average</b>	13 0	6 1	19 1
				<b>Weighted Average for all Towns</b>	12 5	7 7	20 0‡

\* Average for the five towns.

† See remarks on page 222, paragraph (iv).

‡ Basis of Table.

It will be observed from this table that Western Australia is the most expensive, and Queensland the cheapest State, Western Australia being 6.7 per cent. above and Queensland 9.2 per cent. below the average. Kalgoorlie and Geraldton, in Western Australia, are the most expensive towns, and Beaconsfield, in Tasmania, the cheapest. Kalgoorlie is 19.6 per cent. and Geraldton 16.7 per cent. above, and Beaconsfield 25 per cent. below the average.

**5. Capital Towns only. Cost-of-Living Index-Numbers, 1911 to 1914.**—The tables given in the preceding paragraphs of this section refer to the thirty towns of the Commonwealth for which particulars have been collected since the beginning of 1912. In previous reports information has, however, been furnished for the six capital towns back to 1901. In order to maintain the continuity of the results given in these reports, the following particulars are given for the capital towns only, taking the weighted average cost in 1911 for the six capital towns considered as a whole as base (= 1000):—

**Retail Prices, House Rent and Cost-of-Living Index-Numbers in each Capital Town 1911 to 1914, with Weighted Average Expenditure for the whole of the six Capital Towns in the Year 1911 as Base (=1000)\*.**

Particulars.	1911.	1912.	1913.		1914.		
			Whole Year.	4th Quarter (Oct. to Dec.).	Whole Year.	3rd Quarter (July to Sept.).	4th Quarter (Oct. to Dec.).

GROCERIES AND FOOD.

Sydney ..	989	1,124	1,131	1,104	<b>1,156</b>	1,154	<b>1,156</b>
Melbourne ..	935	1,082	1,024	999	<b>1,091</b>	1,101	<b>1,115</b>
Brisbane ..	1,018	1,102	1,042	1,035	<b>1,078</b>	1,085	<b>1,124</b>
Adelaide ..	1,020	1,154	1,119	1,090	<b>1,215</b>	1,229	<b>1,233</b>
Perth ..	1,346	1,345	1,267	1,245	<b>1,302</b>	1,336	<b>1,330</b>
Hobart ..	1,058	1,190	1,164	1,139	<b>1,212</b>	1,212	<b>1,243</b>
Weighted Aver.	<b>1,000†</b>	1,129	1,095	1,070	<b>1,144</b>	1,151	<b>1,161</b>

RENT.

Sydney ..	1,090	1,183	1,246	1,275	<b>1,279</b>	1,285	<b>1,271</b>
Melbourne ..	970	1,016	1,089	1,105	<b>1,126</b>	1,147	<b>1,093</b>
Brisbane ..	767	804	863	891	<b>882</b>	890	<b>865</b>
Adelaide ..	1,112	1,160	1,125	1,093	<b>1,040</b>	1,052	<b>962</b>
Perth ..	810	880	928	947	<b>914</b>	917	<b>896</b>
Hobart ..	805	829	887	901	<b>914</b>	919	<b>924</b>
Weighted Aver.	<b>1,000†</b>	1,064	1,118	1,135	<b>1,135</b>	1,147	<b>1,110</b>

GROCERIES, FOOD, AND RENT.

Sydney ..	1,031	1,148	1,178	1,174	<b>1,206</b>	1,208	<b>1,203</b>
Melbourne ..	950	1,055	1,051	1,043	<b>1,105</b>	1,120	<b>1,106</b>
Brisbane ..	915	979	969	976	<b>997</b>	1,005	<b>1,018</b>
Adelaide ..	1,058	1,157	1,121	1,092	<b>1,143</b>	1,156	<b>1,122</b>
Perth ..	1,126	1,154	1,128	1,123	<b>1,143</b>	1,164	<b>1,152</b>
Hobart ..	954	1,042	1,050	1,041	<b>1,090</b>	1,091	<b>1,112</b>
Weighted Aver.	<b>1,000†</b>	1,101	1,104	1,096	<b>1,140</b>	1,150	<b>1,140</b>

\* For corresponding figures for previous years see Report No. 5 (pp. 22 to 27) of Labour and Industrial Branch. † Basis of Table. See Report No. 5, p. 22.

NOTE.—The above figures are comparable in all respects. That is to say, they show not only the increase or decrease in cost of living in each town separately, but also the relative cost as between the several towns.

The weighted average result for the six capital towns taken together shews that there is a decrease of 0.9 per cent. on the preceding quarter. All the towns except Perth shew an increase in the cost of food and groceries. The increase is greatest in Brisbane (3.6 per cent.), due to the advance in price of meat, while it is least in Sydney (0.1 per cent.) The decrease in Perth is small, less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. All the towns except Hobart shew a decrease in the index-number for house rent. The decrease is greatest in Adelaide (8.6 per cent.), followed in the order named by Melbourne (4.7 per cent.), Brisbane (2.8 per cent.), Perth (2.3 per cent.), and Sydney (1.1 per cent.). The increase in the case of Hobart amounts to only  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Compared with the corresponding quarter (October to December) of 1913, the weighted average result for the six capital towns taken together shews an increase of 4 per cent. Food and groceries shew an increase of 8.5 per cent., and house rents a decrease of 2.2 per cent.

The completion of the figures for the last quarter enables comparisons to be made for the whole of the year 1914 with previous years. The weighted average result for the six capital towns taken together shews that the index-number for 1914 was 3.1 per cent. higher than in either 1913 or 1912, and 14 per cent. higher than in 1911. The increase in cost of living since 1911 is greatest in Sydney (17 per cent.), followed in the order named by Melbourne (16.3 per cent.), Hobart (14.2 per cent.), Brisbane (9 per cent.), Adelaide (8 per cent.), and Perth (1.5 per cent.). The index-number for food and groceries was higher in 1914 than in 1911 in all the towns except Perth, while the index-number for house rents was higher in all the towns except Adelaide.

It has been pointed out in previous Reports and Bulletins that the conditions governing variations in cost of living and prices in Western Australia are often in many respects entirely different to those in the Eastern States. While there has been a substantial increase in the index-number for food and groceries since 1911 in the other towns, there was a decrease in the year 1913 in Perth, and though prices have advanced in that town during 1914, the index-number for that year was still 3.3 per cent. lower than that for 1911. The index-number for house rents in Adelaide reached its highest point in 1911, since when there has been a decrease each year. In Perth, house rents have declined since the beginning of the year 1914, and in the other capital towns (except Hobart) they decreased during the latter half of that year.

**6. Purchasing - Power of Money.**—In the following table the average cost for the six capital towns in the year 1911 has been taken as base. This base has been taken as equal to 20s. instead of 1000 as in the former tables. The figures shew the variations in cost of living from year to year in each town separately (in the vertical lines), and the relative cost in the several towns in each year (in the horizontal

lines). It may be seen, for example, that 20s. 7d. in Sydney in 1911 was equivalent to 18s. 4d. in Brisbane, or 19s. 1d. in Hobart, or that 22s. 1d. in Melbourne for the last quarter was equivalent to 15s. 5d. in Brisbane in 1901, or 22s. 6d. in Perth in 1913.

**Purchasing-Power of Money.**—Amounts necessary on the Average in each Year from 1901 to 1914 (4th quarter) to purchase in each Capital Town what would have cost on the Average £1 in 1911 in the Australian Capitals regarded as a whole.†

Year.		Sydney.	Melb'rne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Towns	
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
1901	.. ..	17 10	17 5	15 5	17 3	20 6	17 5	17 7	
1902	.. ..	19 7	18 1	16 0	17 3	21 7	17 10	18 7	
1903	.. ..	19 2	17 7	15 9	16 9	21 8	17 11	18 2	
1904	.. ..	17 5	17 1	14 8	16 3	20 10	17 1	17 2	
1905	.. ..	18 9	17 7	15 5	17 6	20 11	17 9	18 0	
1906	.. ..	18 8	17 7	15 7	17 10	20 5	18 0	18 0	
1907	.. ..	18 6	17 6	15 11	17 11	19 9	17 9	17 11	
1908	.. ..	19 9	18 6	17 1	19 1	20 0	18 5	19 0	
1909	.. ..	19 9	18 1	17 0	19 10	19 9	19 0	19 0	
1910	.. ..	19 11	18 10	17 6	20 2	20 6	19 0	19 5	
1911	.. ..	20 7	19 0	18 4	21 2	22 6	19 1	20 0*	
1912	.. ..	22 11	21 1	19 7	23 2	23 1	20 10	22 0	
1913	.. ..	23 7	21 0	19 5	22 5	22 6	21 1	22 1	
1914	.. ..	24 1	22 1	19 11	22 10	22 10	21 10	22 10	
1912	1st Quarter	21 4	19 9	19 6	22 6	22 4	19 7	20 9	
	2nd "	22 5	20 10	19 6	23 2	23 8	20 2	21 9	
	3rd "	24 1	22 1	19 8	23 8	23 6	21 5	22 11	
	4th "	23 10	21 8	19 8	23 3	22 10	22 2	22 7	
1913	1st "	23 5	21 0	19 1	22 8	22 6	21 1	22 0	
	2nd "	23 10	21 2	19 7	22 11	22 11	21 3	22 4	
	3rd "	23 6	21 1	19 4	22 4	22 4	21 1	22 1	
	4th "	23 6	20 10	19 6	21 10	22 5	20 10	21 11	
1914	1st Quarter	24 0	21 4	19 7	22 4	22 3	21 1	22 4	
	2nd "	24 3	22 7	19 9	23 6	22 10	22 0	23 1	
	3rd "	24 2	22 5	20 1	23 2	23 3	21 10	23 0	
	4th "	24 1	22 1	20 4	22 5	23 0	22 3	22 10	

\* Basis of Table.

† It is necessary to observe that figures given for the Capital towns in this table are not comparable with those given in the table on page 225. This will be at once evident when it is explained that in the case of the above table the base taken is the weighted average of the six Capital towns for 1911, whereas the base of the table on page 225 is the weighted average for 30 towns for the third quarter of 1914.

(i.) *Groceries and Food only.*—The following table has been computed in the same manner as that indicated above, but relates to groceries and food (46 items) only. The average expenditure for the six capital towns in 1911 has again been taken as the basis of the table (= 20s.), and the figures are, of course, comparable throughout.

**Purchasing-Power of Money.—Groceries and Food only.—Amount necessary on the Average in each Year from 1901 to 1914 (4th Quarter) to purchase in each Capital Town what would have cost on the Average £1 in 1911 in the Australian Capitals regarded as a whole.**

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Towns.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1901 ...	18 4	19 4	19 4	20 7	23 8	20 3	19 4
1902 ...	21 4	20 4	20 4	20 6	25 6	21 0	21 1
1903 ...	20 7	19 6	19 9	19 8	25 8	21 1	20 4
1904 ...	17 6	18 4	17 10	18 10	24 3	19 8	18 5
1905 ...	19 5	19 1	18 11	19 10	25 2	20 7	19 8
1906 ...	19 3	18 11	19 2	19 8	24 9	20 11	19 7
1907 ...	18 9	18 6	18 11	19 0	23 11	20 2	19 1
1908 ...	20 7	19 11	20 6	20 2	24 6	21 1	20 7
1909 ...	20 3	19 0	19 8	20 6	24 3	21 10	20 1
1910 ...	20 0	19 2	20 0	20 0	25 0	21 6	20 1
1911 ...	19 9	18 8	20 4	20 5	26 11	21 2	<b>20 0*</b>
1912 ...	22 6	21 8	22 0	23 1	26 11	23 10	22 6
1913 ...	22 8	20 6	20 10	22 5	25 4	23 3	21 11
1914 ...	<b>23 1</b>	<b>21 10</b>	<b>21 7</b>	<b>22 4</b>	<b>26 0</b>	<b>24 3</b>	<b>22 11</b>
1912 { 1st quarter	20 9	19 9	21 11	22 0	26 0	21 10	21 0
2nd "	21 10	21 5	21 11	22 11	28 2	22 11	22 3
3rd "	23 11	23 2	22 1	23 10	27 4	24 8	23 9
4th "	23 6	22 3	22 3	23 6	26 1	25 9	23 2
1913 { 1st "	22 9	20 9	20 9	22 5	25 6	23 2	22 0
2nd "	23 2	20 10	21 2	22 11	26 0	23 9	22 4
3rd "	22 7	20 5	20 10	22 4	25 0	23 5	21 10
4th "	22 1	20 0	20 8	21 10	24 11	22 9	21 5
1914 { 1st "	23 0	20 7	20 11	22 11	24 11	23 3	22 1
2nd "	23 3	22 4	21 2	25 0	25 11	24 7	23 2
3rd "	23 1	22 0	21 8	24 7	26 9	24 3	23 0
4th "	<b>23 1</b>	<b>22 4</b>	<b>22 6</b>	<b>24 8</b>	<b>26 7</b>	<b>24 10</b>	<b>23 3</b>

\* Basis of Table.

(ii) *House Rent only.*—The following table gives similar particulars for *house rent only*, the average for the six towns in 1911 being again taken as the basis of the table (= 20s.):—

**Purchasing-Power of Money.—House Rent.—Amount payable on the Average in each Year from 1901 to 1914 (4th Quarter) for House Rent in each Capital Town, compared with a Rent of £1 in 1911 in the Australian Capitals regarded as a whole.**

Year.	Sydney.	Melb'ne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Weighted Average of 6 Capital Towns.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1901 ...	17 3	14 8	9 9	12 7	16 0	13 4	15 1
1902 ...	17 3	14 11	9 10	12 7	15 11	13 5	15 2
1903 ...	17 4	14 11	10 1	12 7	16 0	13 6	15 3
1904 ...	17 5	15 3	10 2	12 7	16 0	13 6	15 4
1905 ...	17 10	15 5	10 5	14 0	14 9	13 7	15 8
1906 ...	17 11	15 8	10 6	15 3	14 4	13 9	15 11
1907 ...	18 4	16 1	11 6	16 3	13 8	14 2	16 4
1908 ...	18 7	16 7	12 4	17 5	13 7	14 7	16 10
1909 ...	19 2	16 10	13 3	18 10	13 4	15 0	17 5
1910 ...	19 10	18 4	14 0	20 4	13 11	15 6	18 5
1911 ...	21 10	19 5	15 4	22 3	16 3	16 1	<b>20 0*</b>
1912 ...	23 8	20 4	16 1	23 2	17 7	16 7	21 3
1913 ...	24 11	21 10	17 3	22 6	18 7	17 10	22 4
1914 ...	<b>25 7</b>	<b>22 6</b>	<b>17 8</b>	<b>20 10</b>	<b>18 3</b>	<b>18 3</b>	<b>22 8</b>
1912 { 1st quarter	22 4	19 8	16 0	23 3	17 0	16 3	20 6
2nd "	23 4	20 0	16 1	23 5	17 2	16 4	21 1
3rd "	24 7	20 7	16 2	23 5	18 0	16 10	21 10
4th "	24 4	20 11	16 0	22 11	18 3	16 11	21 7
1913 { 1st "	24 5	21 4	16 10	22 11	18 3	18 0	22 0
2nd "	24 10	21 9	17 2	22 11	18 6	17 9	22 4
3rd "	24 11	22 0	17 3	22 3	18 7	17 8	22 5
4th "	25 6	22 1	17 10	21 10	18 11	18 0	22 8
1914 { 1st "	25 6	22 5	17 8	21 6	18 5	18 1	22 8
2nd "	25 9	22 10	17 10	21 5	18 5	18 3	23 0
3rd "	25 8	22 11	17 10	21 1	18 4	18 5	22 11
4th "	<b>25 5</b>	<b>21 10</b>	<b>17 4</b>	<b>19 3</b>	<b>17 11</b>	<b>18 6</b>	<b>22 2</b>

\* Basis of Table.



**7. Monthly Fluctuations in Retail Prices of Food and Groceries, July, 1914 to February, 1915.**—The following table has been prepared in order to shew the variations in retail prices of food and groceries since July, 1914, the last month prior to the outbreak of war. Particulars for each town are given in the form of index-numbers for food and groceries in each of the months specified. In addition, the index-numbers for the whole of the year 1912 are given in the first column, and in the last column the percentage increase or decrease is shewn for each town in February, 1915, compared with July, 1914.

**Retail Prices Index-Numbers (Food and Groceries), for each of Thirty Towns, for the months specified, with weighted Average for all Towns in 1912 as Base (= 1000).**

Particulars.	1912.	1914.						1915.		Increase or decrease from July 1914, to Feb., 1915.
	Base for Whole Year (= 1000)	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES—</b>										
Sydney .. ..	986	1,011	1,020	1,007	999	1,000	1,041	1,098	1,060	4.8
Newcastle .. ..	994	1,006	1,013	1,002	1,000	996	1,041	1,081	1,071	6.5
Broken Hill .. ..	1,186	1,287	1,215	1,164	1,170	1,187	1,260	1,283	1,313	2.0
Goulburn .. ..	990	1,037	1,036	1,024	1,021	1,025	1,068	1,080	1,060	2.2
Bathurst .. ..	950	962	974	946	933	934	1,007	1,026	1,038	7.9
<b>*Weighted Average ..</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>1,022</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>1,103</b>	<b>1,071</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>VICTORIA—</b>										
Melbourne .. ..	949	970	974	954	958	965	1,010	1,019	1,034	6.6
Ballarat .. ..	973	967	974	986	966	976	986	1,029	1,049	8.5
Bendigo .. ..	976	971	976	971	965	984	1,013	1,019	1,049	8.0
Geelong .. ..	952	955	958	977	965	981	1,015	1,003	1,038	8.7
Warrnambool .. ..	927	953	955	957	963	953	979	977	1,007	5.7
<b>*Weighted Average ..</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>1,009</b>	<b>1,019</b>	<b>1,036</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>QUEENSLAND—</b>										
Brisbane .. ..	966	926	953	976	977	962	1,019	1,057	1,035	11.8
Toowoomba .. ..	964	912	916	984	985	993	1,050	1,071	1,074	17.8
Rockhampton .. ..	1,002	1,013	1,030	1,011	1,022	1,026	1,071	1,111	1,095	8.1
Charter Towers .. ..	1,134	1,092	1,102	1,101	1,141	1,155	1,225	1,250	1,206	10.4
Warwick .. ..	1,004	949	942	941	947	975	1,009	1,053	1,076	13.4
<b>*Weighted Average ..</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>11.9</b>
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA—</b>										
Adelaide .. ..	1,012	1,097	1,069	1,068	1,076	1,072	1,098	1,134	1,138	3.7
Kadina, Moonta, Wallaroo	1,012	1,079	1,089	1,070	1,027	1,060	1,095	1,138	1,155	7.0
Port Pirie .. ..	1,048	1,132	1,132	1,113	1,103	1,120	1,168	1,200	1,219	7.7
Mt. Gambier .. ..	904	933	947	928	928	943	981	1,001	1,030	10.4
Petersburg .. ..	1,018	1,175	1,160	1,135	1,119	1,140	1,148	1,165	1,169	—0.5§
<b>*Weighted Average ..</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>1,071</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>1,140</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA—</b>										
Perth .. ..	1,179	1,175	1,183	1,158	1,150	1,170	1,179	1,206	1,239	5.4
Kalgoorlie and Boulder	1,471	1,460	1,493	1,502	1,500	1,518	1,526	1,517	1,532	4.9
Mid. Junc. & Guildford	1,209	1,188	1,197	1,182	1,174	1,194	1,217	1,251	1,306	9.9
Bunbury .. ..	1,231	1,244	1,266	1,255	1,265	1,258	1,265	1,260	1,307	5.1
Geraldton .. ..	1,237	1,268	1,303	1,329	1,318	1,315	1,323	1,374	1,385	9.2
<b>*Weighted Average ..</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>1,238</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>1,237</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>1,258</b>	<b>1,278</b>	<b>1,308</b>	<b>5.7</b>
<b>TASMANIA—</b>										
HOBART .. ..	1,044	1,063	1,065	1,060	1,071	1,078	1,122	1,114	1,136	6.9
Launceston .. ..	986	1,003	1,000	1,004	1,001	1,026	1,053	1,045	1,086	8.6
Zeehan .. ..	1,142	1,133	1,140	1,132	1,137	1,165	1,228	1,205	1,197	5.3
Beaconsfield .. ..	1,053	1,079	1,091	1,073	1,062	1,090	1,124	1,132	1,136	5.3
Queenstown .. ..	1,130	1,153	1,154	1,142	1,140	1,145	1,165	1,202	1,217	5.6
<b>*Weighted Average ..</b>	<b>1,036</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>1,051</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>1,071</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>1,103</b>	<b>1,128</b>	<b>7.0</b>
<b>†Weighted Aver. for Cwth.</b>	<b>†1,000</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>1,057</b>	<b>1,088</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>6.2</b>

\* Average for the five towns. † Average for thirty towns. ‡ Basis of Table, see Labour Report No. 5, pages 27 to 29. § Decrease.

The aggregate result for the thirty towns covered by the investigations shews that prices were 6.2 per cent. higher in February, 1915, than in July last. This result does not, however, shew the full import of the rise in prices, since these months, July to February, practically cover the period of change from winter to summer, a period during which prices may ordinarily be expected to fall. Thus from July, 1912, to February, 1913, prices of food and groceries decreased 5.3 per cent., and from July, 1913, to February, 1914, they fell 0.2 per cent. Prices of the 46 commodities included were 15.6 per cent. higher in February last than in February, 1912, 11.3 per cent. higher than in February, 1913, and 11.8 per cent. higher than in February, 1914.

#### SECTION IV.—INVESTIGATION INTO COST OF LIVING IN 100 TOWNS IN COMMONWEALTH.

1. **Introduction.**—In order to supplement the information as to cost of living, which is collected each month for the thirty towns specified in the preceding Section, a special investigation was initiated in November, 1913, as to cost of living in seventy additional towns in the Commonwealth. This investigation was repeated in November, 1914, and it is intended to carry it out in that month each year, thus making information available annually in all for 100 towns. The results of the first investigation were published in Labour Bulletin, No. 5 (Section IV., pages 26 to 33), where some description was given of the methods adopted in making the investigation and in computing the index-numbers.

2. **Index-Numbers shewing relative Cost of Living.**—The results of the investigation made in November, 1914, are set out in the tables on pages 232 to 234. *The basis for the whole of this table is the weighted average aggregate expenditure for all the 100 towns on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses.* (see end of last column on page 234). This weighted average aggregate expenditure is made equal to 1000, and the aggregate expenditure on these items for each individual town is shewn in the last column in the form of index-numbers relative to this average. In the preceding column similar index-numbers are shewn for food, groceries, and rent of four-roomed houses, and these index-numbers are again computed to the same base indicated above. That is to say that while the index-number 1000 (see page 234) represents the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses, 929 represents the average weighted expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of four-roomed houses. Similarly in the remaining three columns, if 1000 represents the weighted average expenditure on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses (page 234), the index-number 643 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on food and groceries only, the



index-number 286 represents the relative weighted average expenditure on rent of four-roomed houses, and 357 the expenditure on rent of five-roomed houses. It follows, therefore, that the figures given in the table are comparable throughout. Thus taking the average weighted expenditure for all 100 towns on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses as equal to 1000, the expenditure on the same items in Melbourne is 985, while if four-roomed houses were substituted for five-roomed, the expenditure in Melbourne would be represented by 907, of which 607 would be the expenditure on food and groceries, and the remaining 300 the expenditure on house rent. Again the expenditure in Sydney on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses is 1086, or 8.6 per cent. above the weighted average, and that number is made up of 629 the relative expenditure on food and groceries, and 457 the relative expenditure on rent of five-roomed houses. The expenditure on the same items in Grafton is represented by 891, of which 632 represents the expenditure on food and groceries, and 259 that on rent.

In the following table, the first column, shews the index-numbers for food and groceries only, while the second and third shew the index-numbers for the rent of houses having four and five rooms respectively. The fourth column shews the aggregate index-numbers for food and groceries combined with the rent of four-roomed houses, and the last column the index-numbers for food and groceries combined with the rent of five-roomed houses.

**Relative Cost of Living in Various Towns compared with Weighted Average Cost of Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms as Base (= 1000), November, 1914.**

State and Town.	Food and Groceries, Index No.	House Rent, 4 Rooms, Index No.	House Rent, 5 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4 Rooms Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms Index No.
<b>New South Wales—</b>					
Sydney .. ..	629	378	457	1,007	1,086
Newcastle .. ..	626	232	313	858	939
Broken Hill .. ..	747	57	74	804	821
Goulburn .. ..	645	217	356	862	1,001
Bathurst .. ..	588	216	290	804	878
Armidale .. ..	597	282	319	879	916
Cobar .. ..	717	113	134	830	851
Cooma .. ..	640	185	302	825	942
Cootamundra .. ..	631	250	325	881	956
Deniliquin .. ..	653	210	259	863	912
Grafton .. ..	632	207	259	839	891
Hay .. ..	715	191	240	906	955
Lismore .. ..	699	247	308	946	1,007
Lithgow .. ..	604	247	302	851	906
Moree .. ..	673	234	333	907	1,006
Mudgee .. ..	619	197	247	816	866
Queanbeyan .. ..	646	205	274	851	920
Tamworth .. ..	613	265	334	878	947
Wagga Wagga .. ..	627	308	403	935	1,030
West Wyalong .. ..	648	231	270	879	918
Yass .. ..	654	259	351	913	1,005
<b>Average for State ..</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>1,049</b>

**Relative Cost of Living in Various Towns compared with Weighted Average Cost  
of Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms as Base (= 1000), November, 1914.**

State and Town.	Food and Groceries, Index No.	House Rent, 4 Rooms, Index No.	House Rent, 5 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4 Rooms Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms Index No.
<b>Victoria—</b>					
Melbourne .. ..	607	300	378	907	985
Ballarat .. ..	614	138	203	752	817
Bendigo .. ..	619	174	224	793	843
Geelong .. ..	617	197	294	814	911
Warrnambool .. ..	599	214	284	813	883
Ararat .. ..	620	185	265	805	885
Bairnsdale .. ..	594	157	216	751	810
Camperdown .. ..	604	213	281	817	885
Castlemaine .. ..	615	185	265	800	880
Creswick .. ..	614	111	167	725	781
Daylesford .. ..	617	145	172	762	789
Echuca .. ..	649	148	179	797	828
Hamilton .. ..	614	222	281	836	895
Horsham .. ..	647	222	308	869	955
Korumburra .. ..	604	185	258	789	862
Kyneton .. ..	591	123	172	714	763
Maryborough .. ..	605	123	176	728	781
Mildura .. ..	673	287	345	960	1,018
Nhill .. ..	634	194	241	828	875
Portland .. ..	603	185	271	788	874
Sale .. ..	612	185	233	797	845
Swan Hill .. ..	627	222	339	849	966
Walhalla .. ..	670	99	111	769	781
Wangaratta .. ..	640	219	293	859	933
Warracknabeal .. ..	626	185	222	811	848
Average for State ..	610	267	341	877	951
<b>Queensland—</b>					
Brisbane .. ..	606	215	282	821	888
Toowoomba .. ..	624	190	244	814	868
Rockhampton .. ..	646	197	243	843	889
Charters Towers .. ..	726	176	238	902	964
Warwick .. ..	613	144	221	757	834
Bundaberg .. ..	629	173	234	802	863
Cairns .. ..	782	247	320	1,029	1,102
Charleville .. ..	698	247	308	945	1,006
Chillagoe .. ..	862	123	154	985	1,016
Cooktown .. ..	772	99	197	871	969
Cunnamulla .. ..	753	210	259	962	1,012
Goondiwindi .. ..	658	185	277	843	935
Gympie .. ..	631	148	161	779	792
Hughenden .. ..	776	308	450	1,084	1,226
Ipswich .. ..	611	203	259	814	870
Longreach .. ..	796	222	290	1,018	1,086
Maryborough .. ..	603	155	199	758	802
Mount Morgan .. ..	672	210	247	882	919
Townsville .. ..	743	250	342	993	1,085
Winton .. ..	789	247	308	1,036	1,097
Average for State ..	638	203	266	841	904

**Relative Cost of Living in Various Towns compared with Weighted Average Cost  
of Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms as Base (= 1000), November, 1914.**

State and Town.	Food and Groceries, Index No.	House Rent, 4 Rooms, Index No.	House Rent, 5 Rooms, Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 4 Rooms Index No.	Food, Groceries, and Rent of 5 Rooms Index No.
<b>South Australia—</b>					
Adelaide .. ..	674	300	367	974	1,041
Kadina-Moonta ..	667	157	243	824	910
Port Pirie .. ..	705	200	235	905	940
Mt. Gambier .. ..	593	192	271	785	864
Petersburg .. ..	717	271	345	988	1,062
Kapunda .. ..	667	160	203	827	870
Murray Bridge ..	619	274	351	893	970
Port Augusta .. ..	745	271	332	1,016	1,077
Port Lincoln .. ..	691	222	309	913	1,000
Renmark .. ..	673	281	333	954	1,006
Victor Harbour ..	696	302	370	998	1,066
Average for State	674	281	348	955	1,022
<b>Western Australia—</b>					
Perth .. ..	736	290	357	1,026	1,093
Kalgoorlie .. ..	955	306	344	1,261	1,299
Midland Junction ..	751	231	317	982	1,068
Bunbury .. ..	792	257	324	1,049	1,116
Geraldton .. ..	827	367	472	1,194	1,299
Albany .. ..	790	293	354	1,083	1,144
Broome .. ..	911	..	..	..	..
Carnarvon .. ..	932	278	339	1,210	1,271
Katanning .. ..	748	305	373	1,053	1,121
Leonora .. ..	1,033	197	247	1,230	1,280
Menzies .. ..	1,095	123	148	1,218	1,243
Ravensthorpe ..	976	111	136	1,087	1,112
Average for State	790	288	350	1,078	1,140
<b>Tasmania—</b>					
Hobart .. ..	678	281	329	959	1,007
Launceston .. ..	646	223	320	869	966
Zeehan .. ..	733	127	164	860	897
Beaconsfield .. ..	686	86	92	772	778
Queenstown .. ..	721	248	306	969	1,027
Burnie .. ..	612	280	365	892	977
Campbell Town ..	638	68	92	706	730
Devonport .. ..	612	210	237	822	849
Franklin .. ..	679	180	210	859	889
Oatlands .. ..	659	124	185	783	844
Scottsdale .. ..	611	179	204	790	815
Average for State	668	240	300	908	968
<b>WEIGHTED COMMON-WEALTH AVERAGE</b>	643	286	357	929	<b>1,000</b>

**3.—Food and Groceries.**—Comparing the index-numbers for food and groceries alone (column 1) it will be observed that, taking the weighted average for all the towns in each State, Western Australia, South Australia, and Tasmania are above the weighted average for the Commonwealth, while Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland are below. Western Australia is the most expensive State (23 per cent. above the average), and Victoria the cheapest (5.1 per cent. below). Of the other States South Australia is 4.8 per cent., and Tasmania 3.9 per cent., above the average, while Queensland is 0.7 per cent., and New South Wales 1.3 per cent. below the average. All the towns in Western Australia are above the average below. The most expensive towns are Menzies, Leonora, Ravensage, but in each of the other States some of the towns are above, and thorpe, Kalgoorlie, Carnarvon, and Broome, all in Western Australia. Menzies is 70.3 per cent.; Leonora, 60.7 per cent.; Ravensthorpe, 51.8 per cent.; Kalgoorlie, 48.6 per cent.; Carnarvon, 45.1 per cent.; and Broome, 41.7 per cent. above the average for the Commonwealth. In New South Wales the cheapest town is Bathurst, 8.6 per cent. below the average; and the most expensive, Broken Hill, 16.2 per cent. above the average. In Victoria the cheapest town is Kyneton, 8.1 per cent. below the average, and the most expensive, Mildura, 4.6 per cent. above the average. In Queensland the cheapest town is Maryborough, 6.2 per cent. below the average, and the most expensive Longreach, 23.8 per cent. above the average. In South Australia the cheapest town is Mt. Gambier, 7.7. per cent. below the average, and the most expensive Port Augusta, 15.8 per cent. above. In Tasmania the cheapest town is Scottsdale, 4.9 per cent. below, and Zeehan the most expensive, 14 per cent. above the average.

**4. House Rents.**—There is a far greater divergence between the relative expenditure on house rents in the various towns than on food and groceries. As might naturally be expected, the general tendency appears to be that the cost of housing accommodation is greater in places where there is great centralisation of people than in sparsely-populated districts. That this is not always the case is at once apparent on comparing the index-numbers for Sydney with its 700,000 inhabitants, and Geraldton, in Western Australia, with under 4000 inhabitants. It will be observed that in the case of the latter town the index-number for houses of five rooms is greater than in Sydney, and is only slightly lower than Sydney for houses of four rooms. Reference has already been made to the fact that it was found impossible to obtain precise information as to house rent in certain towns (see page 222), and that special particulars had been collected in order that the predominant rents might be computed. This refers to Broken Hill, and Cobar, in New South Wales, and to Port Pirie, in South Australia.

Comparing the weighted average of the towns in each State, it will be seen that, in the case of four-roomed houses, New South Wales is 18.2 per cent., and Western Australia 0.7 per cent., above the average for the whole of the towns, while the other States are below the

average; Queensland, 29 per cent.; Tasmania, 16.1 per cent.; Victoria, 6.6 per cent.; and South Australia, 1.7 per cent. Turning to the index-numbers for houses having five rooms, the only State in which the index-number is above the average is New South Wales (16 per cent.). The index-numbers in the other States are all below the average; Queensland, 25.5 per cent.; Tasmania, 16 per cent.; Victoria, 4.5 per cent.; South Australia, 2.5 per cent., and Western Australia, 2 per cent.

Comparing individual towns in the different States in New South Wales, Sydney has the highest index-number, being 32.1 per cent. above the average in the case of four-roomed houses, and 28 per cent. for houses having five rooms. Apart from Broken Hill and Cobar, to which special reference has already been made, for houses of four rooms, Cooma has the lowest index-number, 35.3 per cent., below the average, while for houses having five rooms, Hay is lowest, 32.8 per cent. below the average. Melbourne has the highest index-number for Victoria, being 4.9 per cent. above the average for four-roomed houses, and 5.9 per cent. above for five-roomed houses. Walhalla is the lowest, being 65.4 per cent. below the average for four-roomed houses, and 68.9 per cent. below for five-roomed houses. In Queensland the index-number is highest in Hughenden, being 7.7 per cent. above the average for houses of four rooms, and 26.1 per cent. above for houses of five rooms. The index-number for houses of four rooms is lowest in Cooktown, 65.6 per cent. below the average, while for houses of five rooms it is lowest in Chillagoe, where it is 56.9 per cent. below the average. Victor Harbour shews the highest index-number in South Australia for houses, both of four and five rooms, in the former 5.6, and in the latter 3.6 per cent. above the Commonwealth average. Moonta has the lowest index-number for four-roomed houses, being 45.1 per cent. below the average, and Kapunda for houses of five rooms, 43.1 per cent. below the average. Geraldton has the highest index-number in Western Australia both for four-roomed and five-roomed houses. In the former case it is 28.3 per cent., and in the latter 32.2 per cent. above the average. Ravensthorpe has the lowest index-number both for houses of four rooms and those of five rooms. It is 61.2 per cent. below the average in the former, and 61.9 per cent. below the average in the latter. In Tasmania the town having the highest index-number for houses having four rooms is Hobart, which is 1.7 per cent. below the average for the Commonwealth, and Burnie for houses of five rooms, 2.2 per cent. above the average. Campbell Town has the lowest index-number for houses of four rooms, being 76.2 per cent. below the average, while Beaconsfield and Campbell Town have the lowest index-number for houses of five rooms, in both cases 74.2 per cent. below the average.

**5. Food, Groceries, and House Rent.**—The index-numbers in the last two columns of the tables on pages 232 to 234 indicate the relative cost of living for food and groceries, combined with rent of the two classes of houses indicated. The general order and arrange-

ment, both of the separate States and of individual towns as regards relative cost of living, is the same whether the rent included refers to four or to five-roomed houses. Thus it may be seen that for the combined expenditure in each case, the weighted average index-number for the towns in each State is above the average in New South Wales, South Australia, and Western Australia, and below in the remaining States. For combined expenditure on food and groceries, and rent of four-roomed houses, Western Australia is 16.0 per cent., New South Wales 4.7 per cent., and South Australia 2.8 per cent. above the weighted average for the Commonwealth, while Queensland is 9.5 per cent., Victoria 5.6 per cent., and Tasmania 2.3 per cent. below the average. In New South Wales the town in which cost of living is greatest, including both four and five rooms, is Sydney. In the former case the index-number is 8.4, and in the latter 8.6 per cent. above the average for the Commonwealth. Excluding Broken Hill and Cobar for reasons already stated, the town having the lowest combined index-number for four rooms is Bathurst, which is 13.5 per cent. below the average for the Commonwealth, and for houses of five rooms, Mudgee, which is 13.4 per cent. below the average. Mildura has the highest combined index-number in Victoria for both classes of houses, being 3.3 per cent. for four rooms, and 1.8 per cent. for five rooms above the average. Kyneton has the lowest combined index-number, being 23.1 per cent. below the average when combined expenditure for four rooms is taken, and 23.7 per cent. below the average for five rooms. In Queensland, the most expensive town in both cases is Hughenden, 16.7 per cent. above the average for four rooms, and 22.6 per cent. above the average for five rooms. Warwick is least for four rooms, and Maryborough for five rooms. In the former case the combined expenditure is 19.5 per cent., and in the latter 19.8 per cent. below the Commonwealth average. In South Australia the town having the highest combined index-number in both cases is Port Augusta, 9.4 per cent. for four rooms, and 7.7 per cent. for five rooms above the Commonwealth average. Mt. Gambier has the lowest index-number, 15.5 per cent. for houses of four rooms, and 13.6 per cent. for houses of five rooms below the average. In Western Australia cost of living in all the towns is above the Commonwealth average. It is greatest in Kalgoorlie for houses of four rooms, being 35.7 per cent. above the average, and in Kalgoorlie and Geraldton for houses of five rooms, being in each town 29.9 per cent. above the average. It is least in Midland Junction, 5.7 per cent. for houses of four rooms, and 6.8 per cent. for houses of five rooms above the average. In Tasmania, Queenstown has the highest combined index-number in both cases, being 4.3 per cent. for houses of four rooms, and 2.7 per cent. for houses of five rooms above the Commonwealth average. Cost of living was least in Campbell Town, 24 per cent. for houses of four rooms, and 27 per cent. for houses of five rooms below the average for the Commonwealth.

6. **Variation in Cost of Living, 1913 and 1914.**—On the map facing page 238 index-numbers are given which represent, not only the relative cost of living in each of the 100 towns in 1913 and 1914, but

also shew the increase or decrease in cost in each town between November, 1913, and the same month in 1914. In these index-numbers the weighted average expenditure in 1913 on food, groceries, and rent of five-roomed houses is taken as base (= 1000, see end of first column). The second column represents the proportional expenditure in each town on food and groceries only, so that the difference between the index-number in the first column and that in the second column for any town represents the relative expenditure on rent. In the third column, shewing cost-of-living index-numbers for November, 1914, the same base is retained, with the result that the figures shew not only relative cost of living in that month, but also the increase or decrease in cost during the period of twelve months. Similarly, the index-numbers in the fourth column are again computed to the original base, so that they shew both the relative cost of food and groceries as between the several towns, and the variation in cost in each individual town since November, 1913. Thus it may be seen that in Sydney the cost-of-living index-number increased from 1109 to 1124, a rise of 1.4 per cent., between November, 1913, and November, 1914. The figures shew, moreover, that the cost-of-living index-number in Sydney (1109) was 10.9 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1000) in November, 1913, while twelve months later the index-number (1124) was 8.6 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (1035). Again, as regards cost of food and groceries only, the index-number in 1913 was 634, or 2.1 per cent. above the Commonwealth average (621); in November, 1914, the corresponding number was 651, shewing that the cost had increased by 2.7 per cent., and was then 2.1 per cent. below the Commonwealth average (665). The difference between the two index-numbers for Sydney in 1913 was 475, and the corresponding difference twelve months later 473. This shews that rent of five-roomed houses had decreased 0.4 per cent.

**7. Comparisons between Results obtained from Special Investigation and Quarterly Results.**—In order to ascertain the degree of accuracy to which the investigations as to cost of living made prior to 1912 for the capital towns only, and those made since the beginning of 1912 for thirty towns, reflect the conditions obtaining throughout the States and Commonwealth, comparisons between the three sets of results were made in connection with the inquiry of November, 1913. Similar comparisons are now made in connection with the 1914 inquiry. In the following table the first line in each section shews the results obtained, as to relative cost of living, from the special inquiry covering in all 100 towns. The second line gives the results obtained from the returns received for the month of November, 1914, for the five towns in each State from which regular monthly returns are received, and the last line the results obtained from the November returns for the capital cities only. The capital towns are, of course, included in each of the other two investigations, and the five towns in each State are included in the investigation for "all towns."



**Relative Cost of Living.—Comparisons between Results obtained from Special Investigation and from Ordinary Periodic Returns, November, 1914.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	W'td Aver.
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES.</b>							
All Towns* .. ..	987	949	993	1,048	1,230	1,039	<b>1,000</b>
Five Towns in each State	996	951	971	1,052	1,227	1,052	<b>1,000</b>
Capital Town only ..	995	960	957	1,066	1,164	1,072	<b>1,000</b>
<b>RENT, 5-ROOMED HOUSES.</b>							
All Towns* .. ..	1,159	955	743	975	980	839	<b>1,000</b>
Five Towns in each State	1,157	953	733	954	965	836	<b>1,000</b>
Capital Town only ..	1,155	954	715	928	902	831	<b>1,000</b>
<b>FOOD AND GROCERIES AND RENT.</b>							
All Towns* .. ..	1,049	951	904	1,022	1,140	967	<b>1,000</b>
Five Towns in each State	1,051	952	884	1,016	1,131	973	<b>1,000</b>
Capital Town only ..	1,056	958	864	1,013	1,063	980	<b>1,000</b>

\* For list of towns included see table on pages 232 to 234.

As regards variations in cost of living between November, 1913, and November, 1914, the index-numbers for the latter month computed from the three sets of data are shewn in the following table, the cost in November, 1913, being taken as base (= 1000) in each case:—

**Variations in Cost of Living, Results obtained from Annual Inquiry for 100 Towns and from Periodic Monthly Inquiries, November, 1913 and 1914.**

PARTICULARS.	INDEX-NUMBERS IN NOVEMBER, 1914, THE COST IN NOV., 1913, BEING TAKEN AS BASE (= 1000) IN EACH CASE—		
	Food and Groceries.	Rent, 5-Roomed Houses	Food, Groceries, and Rent.
All Towns .. ..	1,072	974	1,035
Five Towns in each State	1,073	976	1,033
Capital Towns only ..	1,072	975	1,031

*NOTE.—The figures in the vertical columns do not, of course, shew the relative cost of living. They shew merely the increase or decrease in cost in November, 1914, compared with November, 1913, for "All Towns," "Five Towns in each State," and "Capital Towns only" respectively.*

The general closeness of the results shewn in these two tables is remarkable, except, perhaps in Western Australia in the former table, and in that State the maximum difference between the three results amounts to only about 7 per cent. This approximation between the various results is a further confirmation of the conclusions previously stated, that the index-numbers published for the capital towns only, for the years prior to 1912, and for the thirty towns for 1912 and subsequent years reflect, with a substantial degree of accuracy,



the variations in the cost of living, not only in each State separately, but also throughout the Commonwealth as a whole. The second table also shews that during the period November, 1913, to November, 1914, the average cost of food and groceries throughout the Commonwealth increased over 7 per cent., while house rents declined nearly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., the aggregate result being that cost of living increased over 3 per cent.

## SECTION V.—WHOLESALE PRICES.

**1. Summarised Results for Year 1914.**—The average wholesale price index-number for the whole year 1914, is 1149, an increase of 5.6 per cent. on that for the preceding year. The index-numbers at decennial periods since 1871, and for each year since 1907, inclusive, are shewn in the following table:—

**Melbourne Wholesale Prices.—Index-Numbers, 1871 to 1914.**

YEAR.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
Index No.*	1,229	1,121	945	974	1,021	1,115	993	1,003	<b>1,000</b>	1,172	1,088	<b>1,149</b>

\* See graph on page 210 hereinbefore.

The wholesale price index-number in 1914 was higher than in any year specified except 1871 and 1912. As regards the former year, prices in the early seventies were high all over the world (see Labour Report No. 1, pages 50, 78, and 90). The high level in 1912 was due mainly to the drought, and the resulting increase in price of agricultural and dairy produce. In 1914 prices increased rapidly during the second half of the year, owing to the double calamity of drought and war. The index-number for the various commodity groups for each quarter of the year are shewn in the following table, in which the index-numbers for the whole of each year, from 1911 to 1914, are also included for purposes of comparison:—

**Melbourne Wholesale Prices.—Quarterly Index-Numbers for each Commodity Group, 1914.**

Group.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	Quarters of 1914.			
					1st Q'rter.	2nd Q'rter.	3rd Q'rter.	4th Q'rter.
I.—Metals and Coal ..	<b>1,000</b>	1,021	1,046	<b>1,099</b>	1,046	1,044	1,129	<b>1,179</b>
II.—Textiles, Leather, etc. ..	<b>1,000</b>	991	1,070	<b>1,032</b>	1,059	1,080	1,135	<b>857</b>
III.—Agricultural Produce ..	<b>1,000</b>	1,370	1,097	<b>1,207</b>	1,053	1,044	1,184	<b>1,546</b>
IV.—Dairy Produce ..	<b>1,000</b>	1,206	1,054	<b>1,137</b>	1,108	1,215	1,142	<b>1,083</b>
V.—Groceries and Tobacco ..	<b>1,000</b>	1,052	1,024	<b>1,021</b>	1,024	1,033	1,012	<b>1,016</b>
VI.—Meat ..	<b>1,000</b>	1,357	1,252	<b>1,507</b>	1,340	1,514	1,650	<b>1,515</b>
VII.—Building Materials ..	<b>1,000</b>	1,057	1,128	<b>1,081</b>	1,074	1,070	1,096	<b>1,086</b>
VIII.—Chemicals ..	<b>1,000</b>	978	995	<b>1,253</b>	1,019	1,018	1,328	<b>1,643</b>
ALL GROUPS ..	<b>1,000</b>	1,172	1,088	<b>1,149</b>	1,085	1,113	1,185	<b>1,225</b>

The commodities which have increased most in price since 1911 up to the fourth quarter of 1914 are those included in Group VIII. (Chemicals), in which there was a rise of 64.8 per cent.; Group III. (Agricultural Produce), 54.6 per cent., and Group VI. (Meat), 51.5 per cent. It will be seen that during 1914 the index-number for the second quarter was 2.5 per cent. higher than that for the first, while a further rise of 6.5 per cent. took place in the third quarter, and a still further increase of 3.4 per cent. in the fourth. The index-number for the December quarter of 1913 was 1072, so that the price level in the last quarter of 1914 is 14.3 per cent. higher than in the corresponding period of the preceding year.

Since the outbreak of war prices of many commodities have increased considerably. This is shewn in the following table in which the index-numbers are given for each group for the month of January, 1915, taking July, 1914, the last month before the outbreak of war, as base (= 1000) for each group:—

**Melbourne Wholesale Prices.—Variations between July, 1914 and January, 1915.**

Particulars.	I. Metals and Coal.	II. Jute, Leather etc.	III. Agricultural Produce, etc.	IV. Dairy Produce	V. Groceries	VI. Meat.	VII. Building Materials.	VIII. Chemicals.	All Groups
July, 1914 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
January, 1915	1,077	804	1,596	958	1,029	1,070	991	1,489	1,148

In Group II., although nearly all the commodities fell slightly in price between July, 1914, to January, 1915, the decline in the index-number was due mainly to the fall in price of cotton from 7½d. per lb. in July, 1914, to 4½d. in January, 1915. If this commodity had been omitted the index-number for Group II. for January, 1915, would have been 940. The fall in the index-number for Group IV. (Dairy Produce) is due to small seasonal decreases in the prices of eggs and butter. The only other group which shews a decrease is VII. (Building Materials), in which there was a small decline owing to a fall in prices of oregon and shelving. The increases in Groups III. (Agricultural Produce, etc.) and VIII. (Chemicals) are far greater than the variation in any other group.

**2. Variations in Price Levels of Commodity Groups, October to December, 1914.**—The index-number for the fourth quarter of 1914 is 1225, compared with 1185 for the preceding quarter, a rise of 3.4 per cent. Compared with the index-number for the fourth quarter of 1913 (1072), the price level for the quarter under review shews an increase of 14.3 per cent. The index-numbers for four of the eight groups into which the commodities are classified, shew decreases, and the remaining four, increases, compared with the preceding quarter. The increase was greatest in Group III. (Agricultural Produce), amounting to no less than 30.6 per cent., followed by Group VIII. (Chemicals), 24.1 per cent.; Group I. (Metals and Coal), 4.4 per cent.; and Group V. (Groceries and

Tobacco), 0.4 per cent. The greatest decrease was in Group VI. (Meat), which fell 8.2 per cent., followed by Group IV. (Dairy Produce), 5.2 per cent.; Group II. (Textiles, Leather, etc., omitting Cotton), 5.1 per cent., and Group VII. (Building Materials), 0.9 per cent.

**Wholesale Prices.—Index-Numbers for Quarter, October to December, 1914.**

GROUP.	No. of Com- modities.	INDEX-NUMBERS.		
		October to December, 1913.	July to September, 1914.	October to December, 1914.
I.—Metals and Coal ..	14	1,047	1,129	1,179
II.—Textiles, Leather, etc.	10	1,096	1,135*	857
III.—Agricultural Produce	16	1,025	1,184	1,546
IV.—Dairy Produce ..	9	1,071	1,142	1,083
V.—Groceries and Tobacco	21	1,023	1,012	1,016
VI.—Meat .. ..	5	1,242	1,650	1,515
VII.—Building Materials ..	10	1,131	1,096	1,086
VIII.—Chemicals .. ..	7	1,019	1,328	1,648
ALL GROUPS.† .. ..	92	1,072	1,185	1,225

\* Omitting cotton. The index-number for the October to December quarter, 1914, omitting cotton was 1,077. † Weighted average.

In the following paragraphs brief remarks are given in regard to the chief features of the changes in average prices of commodities in the various groups during the third and fourth quarters of 1914.

**3. Metals and Coal.**—Although there was a slight fall in the price of pig iron (from 100s. to 98s. 4d.), there was a rise in every description of manufactured iron, the increase ranging from 11s. 8d. per ton for hoop iron, to 33s. 10d. for angle iron. Fencing wire rose from 15s. 7d. to 17s. 9½d. per ton, tin plates from 16s. 9d. to 18s. 6d. per box, zinc sheet from £34 to £48 17s. 6d. per ton, and sheet copper from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2½d. per lb. On the other hand, sheet lead fell from £26 4s. 6d. to £25 8s. 4d., and lead pipe from £31 9s. to £30 per ton. The price of coal remained stationary.

**4. Textiles, Leather, etc.**—In jute goods there was a decline in price, bran bags falling from 5s. 8¾d. per dozen to 5s. 3d., and corn sacks from 7s. to 6s. 0½d., while woolpacks remained practically stationary in price. Leather fell a half-penny per lb. all round, and the average price of wool was ½d. less in the fourth quarter of 1914 than in the third. Tallow fell from £25 10s. per ton to £22 16s. 3d. Quotations for cotton during the period, August to October, were not available, but the average price in July was 7½d. per lb., as against 4½d. in November.

5. **Agricultural Produce.**—All commodities in this group increased in price during the quarter under review. Wheat rose from 4s. 5d. to 5s. 6d. per bushel, flour from £9 18s. 4d. to £11 15s. 10d., bran from £6 2s. 2d. to £7 14s. 4d., and pollard from £6 7s. 2d. to £7 19s. 6d. per ton. Oats rose from 2s. 8½d. to 3s. 8d. per bushel, and, in consequence, the price of oatmeal increased from £17 13s. 4d. to £20 15s. per ton. English barley rose 1s. 10d. per bushel, Cape barley 1s. 5¼d., and maize 6½d. Manger hay rose from £4 18s. 1d. to £6 8s. 8d., chaff from £4 6s. 7d. to £6 4s. 8d., and Victorian straw from £1 17s. 5d. to £2 13s. 5d. per ton. Potatoes rose from £5 0s. 10d. to £6 10s. 2d., and onions from £7 15s. 2d. to £11 6s. 1d. per ton.

6. **Dairy Produce.**—The principal changes in price in this group were in cheese, which rose from 9½d. to 10¾d. per lb.; butter, which fell from 1s. 0¾d. to 1s. per lb., and eggs, which fell from 11¾d. to 9½d. per dozen.

7. **Meat.**—In this group the high prices ruling during the third quarter of the year were not maintained during the fourth, all classes of meat decreasing in price. Beef fell from 31s. 6¾d. per 100 lbs. to 30s. 9d., mutton from 3 11-16d. to 3 3-16d. per lb., lamb from 12s. 4d. to 11s. 1d. per carcase, veal from 3d. to 2 7-16d. per lb., and pork from 6½d. to 5 15-16d. per lb.

8. **Chemicals.**—The average price of cream of tartar rose from 1s. 7½d. per lb. in the third quarter of 1914 to 2s. 4¾d. in the fourth; the price of this commodity in the second quarter was only 10¾d. Carbonate of soda rose from £11 to £11 18s. 4d. per ton, sulphur from £9 10s. 10d. to £10 9s. per ton, and alum from £10 15s. 10d. to £12 per ton.

## SECTION VI.—INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

1. **Comparative Summary of Disputes in 1913 and 1914.**—The systematic collection of information as to strikes and lockouts\* throughout the Commonwealth was first undertaken as from the 1st January, 1913, and particulars concerning disputes occurring during the year 1913 were published in Labour Report, No. 5. The completion of the returns for the last quarter of 1914 now enables preliminary results for the whole of that year to be furnished. Information as to the method adopted for the collection of the necessary data was also given

\* For the purpose of these investigations a strike is defined as a concerted withdrawal from work by a part or all of the employees of an establishment, or of several establishments, with a view to enforcing a demand on the part of the employees, or to resisting some demand made by their employers. A lockout is a refusal on the part of an employer, or several employers, to permit a part or all of the employees to continue at work, such refusal being made to enforce a demand on the part of the employers, or to resist some demand made by their employees. Under these definitions certain stoppages of work are excluded, such for example as stop-work meetings and stoppages in which the relation of employer and employee does not exist.

† Information regarding industrial disputes in 1913, their causes, results, duration and methods of settlement are given in Labour Report No. 5 pp. 70 to 84.

in Report, No. 5 (see pages 70-1), and need not be repeated here. Further particulars, shewing in classified form the causes, methods of settlement, duration and results of disputes beginning in the year 1914, will be published at a later date. The following table gives particulars of the number of industrial disputes beginning in 1914, and also the number of workpeople involved in these disputes. The number of working days lost and the estimated total loss in wages during 1914 for all disputes in existence during that period are also shewn. For purposes of comparison, similar particulars are furnished for the year 1913. They do not, therefore, agree in all respects with somewhat similar particulars published in Labour Report, No. 5, inasmuch as the particulars given in that Report relate solely to disputes which began in 1913, irrespective of the date on which they terminated.

**Industrial Disputes in each State and Territory.—Comparative Particulars for 1913 and 1914.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	F.T.*	N.T.†	C'with.
No. of Disputes 1914	235	44	18	13	18	6	1	2	337
1913	134	29	17	9	9	8	1	1	208
No. of Work- 1914	56,281	7,051	1,686	1,191	4,409	313	50	68	71,049
people involved 1913	40,011	6,177	2,006	288	967	464	200	170	50,283
No. of Working 1914	727,726	93,932	27,857	15,275	124,175	3,286	350	552	993,153
Days Lost 1913	447,979	77,587	77,178	2,412	12,492	987	1,400	2,500	622,535
Total estimated 1914 £	363,326	43,747	13,176	7,697	70,552	1,459	170	348	500,475
Loss in Wages 1913 £	208,468	32,596	37,684	1,029	5,615	434	600	1,675	288,101

\* Federal Capital Territory. † Northern Territory.

While anything in the nature of a definite measurement of the general loss to the community or the special loss to employers entailed through these disputes is not available, some rough idea of the magnitude of such losses may be obtained. For the whole of the manufacturing industries of the Commonwealth during the past five years the average proportion of the "wages paid" to the "value added in process of manufacture" is, approximately, 50 per cent., while the proportion of wages paid to the "total value of output" is 20 per cent. Assuming that these proportions apply approximately to all industries affected by the above disputes, it follows that the aggregate resulting loss in "added value" would amount, approximately, to £1,000,000. The reduction in the "total value of output" would be about £2,500,000, and on a basis of an average profit of 10 per cent. on the value of the output there would be an immediate and direct loss to employers of about £250,000, that is about half the amount of loss in wages. The resultant indirect loss and damage to trade and business may, in some instances, of course, be large compared with the direct losses, but the necessary data for the estimation of these indirect losses is not obtainable.

The above table shews that 337 industrial disputes commenced during the year 1914, as compared with 208 during the preceding year. The number of workpeople involved in strikes and lockouts was also greater, the figures for the respective years being 71,049 during 1914, and 50,283 in 1913. These figures relate to the total number of workpeople affected by disputes, whether directly or indirectly concerned. The number of working days lost during the year, 1914, was 993,153, which was considerably greater than the number

lost (622,535) during the previous year. The estimated total loss in wages during the twelve months ending 31st December, 1914, was £500,475, as compared with the estimated total amount of loss of £288,101 during the year 1913.

The number of disputes was greater in 1914 than in 1913 in each of the States and Territories, with the exception of Tasmania and the Federal Capital Territory. In New South Wales the number of disputes recorded for 1914 was 235, as compared with 134 during the year 1913. In Victoria, 44 disputes commenced in 1914, as against 29 in 1913, while in Western Australia there were 18 disputes in 1914 and 9 in 1913.

**Industrial Disputes in the Commonwealth, Classified according to Industrial Groups, 1914.**

Industrial Group.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Work-people Involved in Disputes	No. of Working Days Lost.	Total Estimated Loss in Wages.
				£
I.—Wood, Furn., Timber, etc.	5	556	3,086	1,345
II.—Engin., Metal Works, etc.	29	8,039	114,635	60,249
III.—Food, Drink, etc. ..	9	2,670	61,696	27,020
IV.—Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	1	54	25	5
V.—Books, Printing, etc. ..	3	163	2,212	1,078
VI.—Other Manufacturing ..	14	1,535	14,184	6,764
VII.—Building .. .. .	16	4,321	140,881	72,735
VIII.—Mines, Quarries, etc. ..	186	48,785	582,967	293,722
IX.—Rail & Tramway Services	23	1,994	44,791	24,720
X.—Other Land Transport	6	580	2,612	1,176
XI.—Shipping, Wharf Labour,	11	682	8,783	4,282
XII.—Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	5	359	6,942	2,815
XIII.—Domestic, Hotel, etc. ..	1	48	73	22
XIV.—Miscellaneous .. ..	28	1,263	10,266	4,542
<b>Commonwealth, All Groups</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>71,049</b>	<b>993,153</b>	<b>500,475</b>

Of the 337 disputes which commenced during the year, 1914, no fewer than 186, or 55 per cent., occurred in the mining industry (Group VIII.), the number of employees (48,785) involved in these disputes, representing 69 per cent. of the total number of workpeople involved in all disputes during the year. Employees in Engineering, and Metal Works (Group II.), were involved in 29 disputes during the period under review, the number of workpeople involved being 8039, and the loss in working days 114,635. In Group XIV. (Miscellaneous), 28 stoppages of work were recorded. Building operations (Group VII.), were affected by 16 disputes, involving 4321 workpeople, who lost 140,881 working days. Persons engaged in industries included in Other Manufacturing (Group VI.), were involved in 14 disputes, while 23 disputes affected workpeople in Railway and Tramway Services (Group IX.). In Group XI. (Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc.), 11 disputes were recorded, while employees engaged in the manufacture and distribution of Food and Drink (Group III.), were involved in 9 disputes. The number of disputes in other groups was comparatively small.

2. **Number and Magnitude of Industrial Disputes in each State and Territory of Commonwealth—October to December, 1914.**—In the following table particulars are furnished concerning 78 disputes which began in the Commonwealth during October, November, and December, as well as the number of working days lost and estimated loss in wages during that quarter caused by disputes which commenced prior to the 1st October, 1914, but were still in existence at the beginning of the quarter. Summarised results are also given for each quarter of 1913 and 1914.

**Industrial Disputes.—Particulars for Fourth Quarter, 1914.**

State or Territory.	No. of New Disputes	No. of Establishments Involved in New Disputes	No. of Workpeople Involved in New Disputes.			No. of Working Days Lost.			Total Estimated Loss in Wages
			Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.	New Disputes.	Old Disputes.	Total.	
New South Wales .. ..	65	65	9,367	5,031	14,398	45,756	152,012	197,768	£ 98,209
Victoria .. ..	5	5	154	7	161	949	..	949	377
Queensland .. ..	1	1	9	..	9	594	..	594	289
South Australia .. ..	1	1	43	..	43	301	..	301	173
Western Australia .. ..	3	3	35	19	54	326	..	326	193
Tasmania .. ..	1	1	28	12	40	80	..	80	42
Northern Territory .. ..	2	2	68	..	68	552	..	552	348
<b>Total C'wealth.</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>9,704</b>	<b>5,069</b>	<b>14,773</b>	<b>48,558</b>	<b>152,012</b>	<b>200,570</b>	<b>£ 99,631</b>
4th Quarter, 1914	63	74	6,466	4,164	10,630	38,661	187,376	226,037	114,037
3rd Quarter, 1914	83	233	8,125	8,734	16,859	261,741	44,654	306,395	156,415
2nd Quarter, 1914	113	818	18,778	10,009	28,787	228,097	32,054	260,151	130,392
1st Quarter, 1914	60	132	6,004	2,542	8,546	58,505	34,388	92,893	43,043
4th Quarter, 1913	60	351	6,734	4,939	11,673	80,249	58,570	138,819	58,163
3rd Quarter, 1913	49	62	8,972	7,858	16,830	126,602	138,700	265,302	131,008
2nd Quarter, 1913	39	376	11,783	1,451	13,234	98,601	26,920	125,521	55,887
1st Quarter, 1913	39	376	11,783	1,451	13,234	98,601	26,920	125,521	55,887

\* Total loss during the quarter for all disputes, new and old.

During the fourth quarter of the year the number of new disputes was 78, and the number of workpeople involved was 14,773, of whom 9704 were directly, and 5069 were indirectly, involved. The number of disputes is higher than those recorded for the third quarter, when 63 stoppages of work, involving 6466 workpeople directly, and 4164 indirectly, occurred. The number of working days lost by reason of new disputes was 48,558, as compared with 38,661 lost through disputes which commenced during July, August, and September. The loss in working days for both old and new disputes was 200,570, which number is less than the total loss in working days during the third quarter (226,037). The stoppage of work in connection with the afternoon shift question at the Maitland collieries extended throughout the quarter, and was responsible for the large number of working days lost by old disputes during the quarter under review. The estimated loss in wages for all disputes was £99,631, which is less than the loss occasioned during the previous quarters of the year.

(i.) *New South Wales.*—The number of disputes which began during October, November, and December, was 65, in which 9367 workpeople were directly, and 5031 indirectly, involved. These figures are in excess of those for the preceding quarter, when 49 stoppages occurred, affecting workpeople to the number of 9071, of whom 5421 were directly,



and 3650 indirectly, involved. The number of working days lost by new disputes was also higher, the figures being:—3rd quarter, 26,935; 4th quarter, 45,756. Disputes which commenced prior to the 1st October were responsible for the loss of 152,012 working days. Reference has already been made to the dispute over the "afternoon shift" question at certain of the northern collieries. This dispute continued during the fourth quarter, and was unsettled at the close of the year. The majority of the stoppages occurred at the coal mines, but only a few of these disputes lasted for more than one or two days. Other disputes which began during October, November, and December involved workmen engaged in the following industries—furniture making, ironworking, shipbuilding, wire netting, glass bottle making, and railway construction. At a number of collieries "stop work" meetings were held, but these stoppages are not included as strikes, for the reason that they were not held necessarily for the purpose of enforcing a demand on the part of the employees, or resisting some demand made by the employers.

(ii.) *Victoria*.—Five disputes occurred in this State during the quarter, as compared with 8 during the third quarter of the year. The disputes were of short duration, and the number of workpeople affected was comparatively small. The total number of persons affected by the stoppages was 161, and the loss in working days totalled 949. Miners at the State Coal Mine were involved in a dispute during October and November. Storemen at wool and skin stores obtained increased rates of pay during October after a short stoppage of work. Other employees involved in disputes included labourers engaged on reservoir construction. Sleeper cutters and wharf labourers were also involved in disputes during the quarter, but particulars regarding these disputes are not included in the tabulations. As regards the sleeper cutters' dispute, these men were not employed on "wages," but were working on their own account on "contract." The relation of employee and employer did not, therefore, exist. In the case of the wharf labourers it appears that, owing to rain, work did not commence at the usual starting hour, and after waiting some time, the men returned home, and work was, therefore, suspended for the day.

(iii.) *Other States*.—Six small disputes occurred in Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania. The number of workpeople involved in these six disputes was 146, while 1301 working days were lost.

(iv.) *Northern Territory*.—Two disputes, involving 68 workpeople, occurred during the quarter, causing a loss of 552 working days. The parties involved in the stoppages were railway construction workers and carpenters.

**3. Number and Magnitude of Industrial Disputes in Different Industrial Groups—October to December, 1914.**—The following table gives particulars of disputes in the Commonwealth during the fourth quarter of the year 1914, classified according to industrial groups. The industrial classification is similar to that adopted in connection with labour organisations, unemployment, rates of wages, etc. (see Report No. 5, Labour and Industrial Branch, page 6).

**Industrial Disputes.—Number and Magnitude of Industrial Disputes in the Commonwealth, October to December, 1914, according to Industrial Groups.**

Industrial Group.*	No. of New Disputes.	No. of Establishments Involved	No. of Workpeople Involved in New Disputes.			No. of Working Days Lost.			Total Estimated Loss in Wages †
			Directly.	Indirectly.	Total	New Disputes.	Old Disputes.	Total.	
I.—Wood, Sawmill, Timber, etc. . .	1	1	10	..	10	10	..	10	3
II.—Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . .	3	3	346	..	346	5,366	..	5,366	2,163
III. Food, Drink, etc., Manufacturing and Distrib.	1	1	9	..	9	594	..	594	289
VI. Other Manufacturing	3	3	239	297	536	2,735	..	2,735	1,369
VII. Building . . .	2	2	21	19	40	608	..	608	386
VIII. Mines, Quarries, etc. . .	56	56	8,553	4,655	13,208	31,091	152,000	183,091	91,413
IX. Railway and Tramway Services . . .	3	3	188	..	188	602	..	602	337
X. Other Land Transport	1	1	40	..	40	20	..	20	3
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc. . .	4	4	190	97	287	7,189	..	7,189	3,512
XIV. Miscellaneous . . .	4	4	108	1	109	343	12	355	156
TOTAL, Commonwealth—4th Quarter, 1914 . .	78	78	9,704	5,069	14,773	48,558	152,012	200,570	99,631

\* No dispute, causing stoppage of work occurred in any of the following industrial groups, viz., IV., Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.; V., Books, Printing, etc.; XII., Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.; and XIII., Domestic, Hotels, etc.

† Total loss during the quarter for all disputes, old and new.

In the above table it will be seen that no less than 56 of the total number (78) of disputes occurred in Group VIII. (Mines, Quarries, etc.). Of these 56 stoppages of work, 54 took place in New South Wales, mainly in the northern colliery district. Four disputes occurred in each of the following groups:—XI. (Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc.), and XIV. (Miscellaneous). In Group II. (Engineering, etc.), three stoppages, affecting 346 workpeople, occurred, while 239 workpeople were directly involved in three disputes in industries included in Other Manufacturing (Group VI.). Of the total number of persons (14,773) involved in disputes during the fourth quarter of the year, 13,208, or 89 per cent., were employed in the mining industry. The disputes in the other groups were small, and caused comparatively small losses, so far as working days and wages were concerned.

**4. Particulars of Principal Disputes during the Fourth Quarter, 1914.**—In the table on page 250 particulars are furnished regarding several of the most important disputes which occurred during October, November, and December, 1914.

(i.) *New South Wales*.—The principal disputes in this State were those in which coal miners, ironworkers, wire netting makers, shipwrights, plumbers, seamen, and wharf labourers were involved. The Colliery Employees Federation was prosecuted for aiding in strikes of employees at certain collieries, by taking part in the distribution of moneys as strike pay to the employees involved. In two cases a fine of £1000 was imposed on the Federation, and certain officials were each fined £50. Applications have been made to the Supreme Court for orders *nisi* to prohibit further proceedings upon the orders of the Court of Industrial Arbitration. The cases will be heard by the Full Court during the first term of 1915. The new disputes at the various collieries during the fourth quarter were mostly of short duration.

The stoppages at the Rosedale, Burwood, Hetton, Excelsior, Central Greta, Stockton Borehole, North Bulli, Bulli, Lambton B, and Corrimal-Balgownie collieries continued for varying periods of from 6 to 23 days during the quarter, and were responsible for the greater part of the working days lost on account of new disputes. The employees at the Cockatoo Naval Dockyard were involved in two disputes during the quarter.\* The stoppage of work in November lasted for over a week, and the question in dispute was the rate of payment for shift work. Shipwrights, plumbers, metal workers, carpenters, and others, were involved. The other dispute was caused by the refusal of the management to pay treble rates for work performed on public holidays. Workmen engaged in the manufacture of wire netting were involved in a dispute during December, and the matter was unsettled at the end of the year. It appears that the members of the Wireworkers' Union passed a resolution, shortly after the commencement of the war, restricting the amount of piecework earnings by married men, with the object of providing a greater amount of employment for the single men, many of whom had been dismissed, owing to the dislocation of trade caused by the war. Four married men earned more than the amount agreed upon, and the single men objected. The request for the dismissal of the four men was refused, and the employees ceased work.

(ii.) *Victoria*.—The disputes in this State during the quarter were not important so far as the loss in working days was concerned. Certain employees in the State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi, were involved in a dispute which lasted over a month. The questions in dispute were the rates of payment for brushing and for setting timber. After negotiations new rates were arranged, and work was resumed. The trouble affected a section of the workers only, and the bulk of the men employed at the mine were not affected. Trouble arose on board the s.s. "Canberra" regarding the employment of a certain cook. The dispute lasted a couple of days, and work was then resumed. In connection with disputes on board vessels, it may be mentioned that in certain instances the men's wages are not deducted if the men resume work on the vessel after the trouble. As no wages can, therefore, be said to be lost, particulars concerning loss of wages are not included in the tabulations for these disputes. Storemen at wool and skin stores were involved in two disputes over rates of wages during October, with the result that an increase was granted.

(iii.) *Other States*.—In South Australia railway construction workers on the Port Augusta-Kalgoorlie line ceased work as a protest against the dismissal of a fellow employee. The stoppage lasted over a week. Tobacco workers in Queensland, builders' labourers, and firewood workers in Western Australia, were also involved in disputes during the quarter. These disputes were also of short duration. Particulars concerning a small dispute which occurred previous to the beginning of October are included in the tabulation. The dispute occurred in Tas-

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\* This dockyard is a Commonwealth enterprise, and it may be observed that there is apparently no legislative provision for the prevention or settlement of disputes in such enterprises. It appears that they are not subject to State legislation by reason of the fact that the Commonwealth is not within the definition of employer. The Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration apparently has no power with respect to industrial disputes occurring in Commonwealth enterprises on State territory.

mania, and involved waterside workers. The stoppage lasted only two days. Particulars concerning this trouble could not be obtained in time for inclusion in last quarter's results.

(iv.) *Northern Territory*.—Railway construction workers on the Pine Creek to Katharine River line stopped work for three days. Some employees refused to complete their piecework agreements, claiming to be placed on other work. Work was resumed, after negotiations, the men agreeing to complete their piecework. Certain carpenters were engaged in Sydney at a stated rate of wage for work at Port Darwin. On arrival at that place they refused to start work on the ground that the local rate of wage was considerably higher than the rate which they had agreed to accept. The dispute came before the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, and an interim award was given by the Deputy-President on the 15th March, 1915.

**Industrial Disputes.—Particulars of Principal Disputes beginning during the Fourth Quarter, 1914.**

Industry and Locality Affected.	Number of Work-People Involved.		Date of Commencement and Termination.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
	Directly.	In-directly.			
<b>New South Wales</b>					
Wire-netting Makers (Sydney).	300	—	10th Dec. to —	Claim for dismissal of four men who had broken agreement <i>re</i> maximum earnings.	Pending at end of quarter.
Shipwrights, Plumbers, (Cockatoo Dock, Sydney).	115	20 to 140	21st Nov. to 1st Dec.	Demand that shift rates, outside working hours, should be double ordinary rates.	Minister decided that no shift work or overtime be worked. Compromise.
Coal Miners (Hetton Colliery).	164	124	15th Oct. to 28th Oct.	Objection to employment of electrician of German birth, but naturalised.	Employee in question dismissed.
Coal Miners (Stockton Borehole).	118	132	26th Nov. to 2nd Dec.	Places not being brushed, miners did not start work.	Work resumed. Miners agreeing to do brushing.
Machine Men (Lambton B. Colliery).	42	32	19th Dec. to 31st Dec.	Objection of machine men to inclusion of a spare cutter in cavit.	Men agreed to spare cutter under certain conditions.
Colliery Employees (Bulli Colliery).	180	30	1st Dec. to 7th Dec.	Alleged insufficient ventilation.	Work resumed after mine inspector had made an inspection and given a report.
Coal Miners (Corrimal-Balgownie Colliery).	110	200	14th Dec. to 28th Dec.	Dispute <i>re</i> cavit. Men objected to the Company including certain special places in cavit.	Company withdrew certain places objected to by miners pending reference to Wages Board.
<b>Victoria—</b>					
Coal Miners (State Coal Mine Wonthaggi).	12	6	13th Oct. to 23rd Nov.	Request for increased rates for brushing and for setting timber.	New rates fixed to cover work not in agreement. Special rate for setting beams over 10 feet in length.
<b>South Australia</b>					
Railway Construction Workers (Pt. Augusta to Kalgoorlie Line).	43	—	8th Oct. to 15th Oct.	Claim for re-instatement of dismissed man.	Work resumed on antecedent conditions.

## SECTION VII.—CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.

1. **Comparative Summary of Changes in 1913 and 1914.**—In the first issue of this Bulletin it was pointed out that for the purposes of statistical investigations made by this Bureau in regard to variations in wages, a change in rate of wages is defined as a change in the weekly rate of remuneration of a certain class of employees apart from any change in the nature of the work performed, or apart from any revision of rates due to increased length of service or experience.\*

Information was also given in Labour Report No. 5 (see pages 63-4) as to the sources of information and methods of collection and computation. In addition to the organisations and persons specified therein as furnishing returns to this Bureau, it may be mentioned that the various Government Departments have also sent in returns concerning changes in rates of wage affecting their employees. During the year 1914 a considerable number of awards and determinations of industrial courts and wages boards came into operation, and numerous industrial agreements were filed under Commonwealth and State Acts. Particulars concerning changes in the rates of wages effected as a result of industrial disputes have also been collected, and are included in the following tables. In addition to these changes a number of voluntary agreements between employers and employees were arranged, and information as to the rates before and after such changes has been collected and the particulars tabulated. It is intended to publish at an early date further particulars regarding the methods by which the various changes were effected, and regarding the result and extent of operations under the various Acts in force governing the regulation of wages.

The following table shews the number of changes, the number of persons affected, the total amount of increase per week, and the average increase per person affected per week for each State in the Commonwealth during the year 1914. The subjoined tables are preliminary, and may be subject to slight amendment, inasmuch as further inquiries are being made regarding certain changes, the available particulars for which cannot at present be accepted as final. The necessary amendments, if any, will be shewn in a later publication, which will furnish more detailed results regarding changes which occurred during 1914. Figures for the year 1913 are also given in the table for comparative purposes.

As regards the number of persons affected, the particulars given refer to the number of persons ordinarily engaged in the various industries. The results as to the amount of increase in wages are computed for a full week's work for all persons ordinarily engaged in the several industries and occupations affected, and in case of changes in existing minimum rates under awards or determinations of industrial tribunals, it has ordinarily been assumed (in the absence of any definite

\* It is obvious that under this definition certain classes of changes are excluded, such, for example, as (a) Changes in rates of pay due to promotions, progressive increments, or, on the other hand, to reduction in pay or grade to inefficient workers, and (b) Changes in average earnings in an occupation due to a change in the proportions which higher paid classes of workers bear to lower paid classes.

information to the contrary) that the whole of the employees in each occupation received the minimum rates of wage before and after the change.

It should be clearly understood that *the figures given in the third line of the following table (amount of increase per week) do not relate to the increase each week, but only to the increase in a single week on the assumption that the full number of persons ordinarily engaged in the particular trade or occupation affected by the change is employed during that week.* It is obvious, therefore, that the aggregate effect per annum cannot be obtained without making due allowance for unemployment and for occupations in which employment is seasonal or intermittent. It is also obvious that since unemployment and activity in all branches of industry may vary from year to year, and in many branches from season to season also, no accurate estimate of the actual effect of the changes in the total amount of wages received or paid *per annum* can be made, until the determining factors have been investigated. These factors are (a) the amount of unemployment and (b) the period of employment in seasonal industries. It is hoped that provision will be made for the necessary investigations in regard to these two matters to be commenced at an early date. In addition to a considerable number of awards and determinations of industrial courts and wages boards and of industrial agreements filed under Commonwealth and State Acts, negotiations between employers and employees, without the assistance or intervention of any Commonwealth or State authority, were also responsible for a number of changes in rates of wages. Increases were also gained by workpeople, as a result of industrial disputes. Particulars concerning such changes have been collected, and are included in the tabulations.

**Changes in Rates of Wages in each State.—Summarised Results for  
Years 1913 and 1914.**

State.	No. of Changes.		No. of Persons Affected.		Total Amount of Increase per W'k.		Average Increase per Head per W'k.	
	1913.	1914.	1913.	1914.	1913.	1914.	1913.	1914.
New South Wales ..	149	181	89,618	53,841	£ 21,789	£ 12,820	s. d. 4 10	s. d. 4 9
Victoria ..	81	68	49,254	29,816	9,880	6,679	4 0	4 6
Queensland ..	41	42	16,645	16,908	3,702	4,499	4 5	5 4
South Australia ..	26	18	4,574	5,624	1,279	1,941	5 7	6 11
Western Australia ..	20	39	3,036	7,299	428	2,231	2 10	6 1
Tasmania ..	12	19	3,005	4,262	635	804	4 3	3 9
Total, Commonwealth	*329	*†368	166,132	†118,140	37,713	†29,117	4 6	4 11

\* Industrial Awards and Agreements under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act if operative in more than one State, are counted as a separate change in each such State.

† These figures include the effect of one change brought about by agreement made pursuant to Section 24 of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, particulars of the number of workpeople affected in each State not being ascertainable.

During the year 1913 no decreases in rates of wages were recorded, but in 1914 five small decreases\* occurred during the fourth quarter of the year. In the above table the net results of the 363 increases and 5 decreases are given. Though the number of separate changes increased

\* For particulars of decreases see paragraph 4 hereinafter.

during 1913 and 1914 from 329 to 368, the number of workpeople affected decreased from 166,132 to 118,140. The total amount of increase per week during the year 1914 was £29,117, compared with £37,713 in 1913, but the average weekly increase per person affected was higher (4s. 11d.) during 1914 than during the year 1913 (4s. 6d.).

**Changes in Rates of Wages in Commonwealth classified in Industrial Groups, 1913 and 1914.**

Industrial Group.	No. of Changes.		No. of Persons Affected.		Total Amount of Increase per week.		Average Increase per Head per week.	
	1913.	1914.	1913.	1914.	1913.	1914.	1913.	1914.
					£	£	s. d.	s. d.
I.—Wood, Furniture, Timber, etc.	10	13	7,975	10,546	1,569	2,480	3 11	4 8
II.—Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	20	30	6,594	9,608	1,607	1,840	4 10	3 10
III.—Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	45	54	17,428	19,632	4,255	4,384	4 11	4 6
IV.—Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	15	9	11,727	14,970	2,062	2,461	3 6	3 3
V.—Books, Printing, etc.	11	17	4,602	2,686	1,126	523	4 11	3 11
VI.—Other Manufacturing	55	41	17,110	8,721	3,480	2,096	4 1	4 10
VII.—Building	21	16	19,237	8,305	5,696	2,441	5 11	5 11
VIII.—Mines, Quarries, etc.	17	24	6,112	7,746	1,210	1,579	4 0	4 1
IX.—Rail and Tramway Services	16	12	20,046	2,023	3,219	510	3 3	5 1
X.—Other Land Transport	12	10	7,335	4,020	2,324	716	6 4	3 7
XI.—Shipping, etc.	19	25	1,839	16,750	543	6,932	5 11	8 3
XII.—Agricultural, etc.	3	2	828	590	436	120	10 6	4 1
XIII.—Domestic, Hotels, etc.	9	4	6,481	939	1,922	188	5 11	4 0
XIV.—Miscellaneous	59	92	38,818	11,604	8,264	2,847	4 3	4 11
TOTAL, COMMONWEALTH	*312	*349	166,132	118,140	37,713	29,117	4 6	4 11

\* In this table an Award or Industrial Agreement under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act has been counted as one change only, although such Award or Agreement may be operative in more than one State.

The largest number of changes occurred in industries and occupations included in Group XIV. (Miscellaneous), and of that number a considerable proportion was brought about by industrial agreements filed under Commonwealth and State Acts. The industrial group in which the largest number of persons affected by changes in 1914 was employed was Group III. (Food and Drink), in which there were 54 changes, affecting no fewer than 19,632 employees. In Group XI. (Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc.), 25 changes affected 16,750 persons, while the next groups in order, according to number of persons affected, were:—Group IV. (Clothing, Hats, etc.), Group XIV. (Miscellaneous), Group I. (Wood, Furniture, etc.), and Group II. (Engineering, Metal Works, etc.). Persons included in Group XIV. (Miscellaneous), received increases amounting to £2847 per week, while employees in Groups VII. (Building), and III. (Food, Drink, etc.), benefited to the extent of £2441 and £4384, respectively.

**2. Number and Magnitude of Changes in each State, October to December, 1914.**—During the period October to December, 1914, a number of awards and determinations of industrial courts and wages boards came into operation, whilst several industrial agreements were filed under Commonwealth and State Acts. Particulars are shewn for each State in the following table, which also includes summarised results for preceding quarters:—



## Changes in Rates of Wages in each State—October to December, 1914.

State.	Increases.			Decreases.			Net Changes.			Average Amount of Inc. per wk.
	No. of Changes.	No. of Persons Affected.	Total Amount of Inc. per week.	No. of Changes.	No. of Persons Affected.	Total Amount of Dec. per week.	No. of Changes.	No. of Persons Affected.	Total Net Inc. per wk.	
New South Wales	35	3,957	£ 1,276	3	97	£ 32	38	4,054	£ 1,244	s. d.
Victoria	13	3,580	802	1	10	2	14	3,590	800	6 2
Queensland	14	5,857	1,255	..	..	..	14	5,857	1,255	4 5
South Australia	5	540	190	..	..	..	5	540	190	4 3
Western Australia	8	479	103	..	..	..	8	479	103	7 0
Tasmania	4	380	144	1	165	25	5	545	119	4 4
4th Qtr., 1914	79	14,793	£ 3,770	5	272	£ 59	*84	15,065	£ 3,711	4 11
3rd " "	82	28,749	6,684	..	..	..	*82	28,749	6,684	4 8
2nd " "	121	49,373	13,327	..	..	..	*121	49,373	13,327	5 5
1st " "	81	24,953	5,395	..	..	..	*81	24,953	5,393	4 4
Total, C'wealth	4th Qtr., 1913	141	46,342	£ 11,326	..	..	*141	46,342	£ 11,326	4 11
3rd. " "	58	45,069	9,242	..	..	..	*58	45,069	9,242	4 1
2nd " "	81	41,217	8,751	..	..	..	*81	41,217	8,751	4 3
1st " "	49	33,504	8,394	..	..	..	49	33,504	8,394	5 0

\* Industrial Awards and Agreements under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act if operative in more than one State, are counted as a separate change in each such State.

The results of two changes, viz., the commercial clerks in Victoria and warehouse clerks in Queensland, are excluded from the tables for the reason that reliable data as to the number of persons affected and as to rates of wages before the change could not be obtained. The number of awards and determinations made during the three months under review was comparatively small, operations under the various Acts in this respect being generally restricted on account of the war. A considerable number of changes was, however, effected by means of agreements registered under the various Acts. Of the 79 increases in rates of wages which are recorded during the quarter, 35 were in New South Wales, 13 in Victoria, 14 in Queensland, 5 in South Australia, 8 in Western Australia, and 4 in Tasmania. The total number of workpeople affected by increases was 14,793, and the total amount of increase per week was £3770. These figures shew a considerable reduction when compared with those for the previous quarter. For the first time since statistics of changes in rates of wages have been collected, certain decreases in rates were recorded during the fourth quarter of 1914. Of the 5 decreases included in the table, 3 occurred in New South Wales, 1 in Victoria, and 1 in Tasmania. The total number of workpeople affected by these reductions was, however, comparatively small, numbering only 272 persons, the total amount of decrease per week being £59. Further information as to these decreases may be found in paragraph 4 hereof. The net result of the changes recorded during the fourth quarter of the year was that the wages of 15,065 persons were changed, the aggregate effect being an increase in wages of £3711 per week, or at the rate of 4s. 11d. per head per week.

3. Number and Magnitude of Changes in Rates of Wages, according to Industrial Groups.—October to December, 1914.—The following table gives particulars of changes during the fourth quarter of the year 1914, classified according to industrial group:—

**Changes in Rates of Wages in Commonwealth Classified in Industrial Groups—October to December, 1914.**

Industrial Group.	Increases.			Decreases.			Net Changes.		
	No. of Changes.	No. of Persons Affected.	Total Amount of Inc. per wk.	No. of Changes.	No. of Persons Affected.	Total Amount of Dec. per wk.	No. of Changes.	No. of Persons Affected.	Total Net Amount of Inc. per wk.
I. Wood, Furniture, Timber, etc.	1	210	£ 46	..	..	..	1	210	£ 46
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	4	675	136	1	16	18	5	691	118
III. Food, Drink, etc.	12	2,703	794	..	..	..	12	2,703	794
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	..	1,110	267	..	..	..	2	1,110	267
V. Books, Printing, etc.	..	140	42	1	70	13	3	210	29
VI. Other Manufacturing	..	800	259	..	..	..	4	800	259
VII. Building	4	4,520	1,406	..	..	..	4	4,520	1,406
VIII. Mines, Quarries, etc.	4	479	55	1	10	..	5	489	53
X. Other Land Transport	1	1,600	240	..	..	..	1	1,600	240
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc.	7	49	17	1	11	1	8	60	16
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	1	480	48	..	..	..	1	480	48
XIV. Miscellaneous	32	2,027	460	1	165	25	33	2,192	435
TOTAL, COMMONWEALTH.	74	14,793	3,770	5	272	59	*79	15,065	3,711

\* In this table an Award or Industrial Agreement under the Commonwealth Arbitration and Conciliation Act has been counted as one change only, although such Award or Agreement may be operative in more than one State.

The largest number of changes occurred in Group XIV. (Miscellaneous), in which 33 changes, affecting 2192 workpeople, were recorded. The employees included in this group are engine-drivers, storemen and packers, municipal labourers, and journalists in New South Wales; wool and skin store labourers, sewerage labourers, employees in the fuel and fodder industry, and engine-drivers in Victoria; warehouse labourers and engine-drivers in Queensland; engine-drivers in Western Australia; and labourers and fire brigade employees in Tasmania. Industrial agreements, filed under Commonwealth and State Acts, were responsible for the greater part of the number of changes included in this group. In Group III. (Food, Drink, etc.), 12 changes were recorded, affecting 2703 workpeople, who benefited to the extent of £794 per week. Employees engaged in the building trades in the several States to the number of 4520 obtained increases, which totalled £1406 per week. The majority of these employees were builders' labourers, and though the change in rate of wages for these workers came into operation during the third quarter of 1914, particulars as to the effect of the change could not be collected in time for inclusion in the last issue of this Bulletin. Seven industrial agreements, affecting persons engaged in the Shipping Trade (Group XI.), came into force during the quarter. The number of workpeople affected was, however, comparatively small. In Group II. (Engineering, Metal Works, etc.), 4 changes resulted in increases to 675 workpeople, while one change reduced the wages of 16 boilermakers at Broken Hill. Only two changes granting increases were recorded in Group V. (Printing, Books, etc.). One change in this group reduced the rates of operators on type-setting machines employed on jobbing or mixed jobbing work in New South Wales. Five changes occurred in Group VIII. (Mines, Quarries, etc.), 4 granted increases, while 1 was a decrease. Reduction in the rates of wages was also recorded in Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.). and XIV. (Miscellaneous).

4. **Decreases in Wages.**—Of the five decreases in wages included in the tables in paragraphs 2 and 3, three were in New South Wales and one in each of the States of Victoria and Tasmania. Two of the reductions in New South Wales were the results of appeals to the Industrial Court from awards of Boards, and in each case the Court ordered amendments bringing about reductions in the wages of a small number of employees. The industries affected were workers on type-setting machines employed on jobbing work, and masters and engineers employed on ferries and tug boats. The other case in New South Wales affected boiler-makers at Newcastle in the employ of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company. These men were receiving wages considerably in excess (16s. per day) of the minimum award rate (11s.). Soon after the outbreak of war the works were temporarily closed down, and when operations were resumed the wages of these men were cut down to 12s. 4d. per day, still 1s. 4d. above the minimum rate. The decrease in Victoria was of similar nature to that which occurred at Broken Hill. Work was stopped at one of the mines at the Stawell district with the object of erecting new machinery. Before the stoppage of work truckers were being paid at the rate of 7s. 6d. per day, which is 10d. in excess of the minimum board rate. On resuming work the wages of these men were reduced to 7s. per day, a rate still in excess of the minimum. In Tasmania the wages of labourers and others engaged in the construction of water supply works were reduced by 6d. per day on the Government taking over the work. It is stated that the object of this reduction was to keep as many men employed as possible pending the development of new work.

#### SECTION VIII.—CURRENT RATES OF WAGES.

1. **General.**—In Labour Report No. 5 (pages 44 to 50) particulars were given of current weekly wages in each State as at the 30th April, 1914. These particulars have been revised and brought up to the end of that year. The information given in the following paragraphs is based mainly on data taken from awards and determinations of industrial tribunals and from industrial agreements. In a few cases, however, where no minimum rates are in force under the various Arbitration or Wages Boards Acts, the ruling trade-union or "predominant" rates have been included. Revised particulars of rates of wages and hours of labour will be published in detail for various industries and occupations in a Report to be issued at an early date. Comparisons between the results given in the following tables must be made subject to certain qualifications, regarding absence of uniformity in the data for the several States, stated on page 45 of Labour Report No. 5.

2. **Weighted Average Rates of Wages Payable to Journeymen or Adult Male Workers in each State, 31st December, 1914.**—The following table shews the weighted average weekly rate of wage payable to journeymen or male adult workers for a full week's work in each State and the Commonwealth. Taking the average for the whole Commonwealth as the base (= 1000), index-numbers for each State are also shewn. The number of occupations upon which these results are based amounts in the aggregate to no fewer than 3948.

**Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates of Wages payable to Journeymen or Adult Male Workers for a Full Week's Work, and Wage Index-Numbers in each State and Commonwealth, 31st December, 1914.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth.
Number of Occupations included ..	874	909	627	567	489	482	3,948
Weighted Average Weekly Rates of Wages	s. d. 56 2	s. d. 54 7	s. d. 53 5	s. d. 54 5	s. d. 62 10	s. d. 52 8	s. d. 55 7
Index-Numbers	1,011	982	961	980	1,132	949	1,000*

\* Weighted Average.

The results shew that nominal rates of wages are highest in Western Australia, followed in the order named by New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia (practically equal), Queensland, and Tasmania.

**3. Weighted Average Rates of Wages Payable to Journeymen or Adult Male Workers in each Industrial Group, 31st December, 1914.—**

The following table gives similar particulars in regard to the several industrial groups and to the weighted average for all groups combined. In computing the index-numbers the weighted average is taken as base (= 1000).

**Weighted Average Weekly Rates of Wage payable to Journeymen or Adult Male Workers for a full Week's Work, and Wage Index-Numbers in each Industrial Group, 31st December, 1914.**

Industrial Groups.	No. of Rates Included.	Weighted Aver. Weekly Wage (for Full Week's Work).	Index-Numbers.
		s. d.	
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	270	59 6	1,071
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. .. ..	636	57 9	1,039
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	576	55 8	1,001
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc. ..	124	53 0	955
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	205	63 10	1,150
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	875	56 0 ✓	1,008
VII. Building .. ..	190	65 6	1,178
VIII. Mining .. ..	161	65 2	1,173
IX. Rail & Tram Services, etc.	224	59 8	1,074
X. Other Land Transport	70	52 8	948
XI. Shipping, etc. .. ..	198	49 10	897
XII. Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.	72	49 5	890
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.*	114	47 11	863
XIV. Miscellaneous .. ..	233	54 0	972
All Groups .. ..	3,948	55 7	1,000†

\* The value of Board and Lodging (estimated at 15s. per week) is included, where supplied, in order that the results may be comparable with the rates paid in other industries. † Weighted Average.

The above figures shew that the highest average wage is that paid in Group VII. (Building), 65s. 6d. per week, or 18 per cent. above the weighted average for all groups. The rates of wages range

from 65s. 6d. per week down to 47s. 11d. per week, the lowest being in Group XIII, (Hotels, etc.), which is nearly 14 per cent. below the average for all groups.

**4. Weighted Average Rates of Wages Payable to Adult Female Workers in each State, 31st December, 1914.**—The following table shews the weighted average weekly rate of wage payable to journeymen or female adult workers for a full week's work in each State and the Commonwealth. Taking the average for the whole Commonwealth as the base (= 1000), index-numbers for each State are also shewn.

**Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates of Wages payable to Adult Female Workers for a Full Week's Work, and Wage Index-Numbers in each State and Commonwealth, 31st December, 1914.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth.
Number of Occupations included	85	87	37	47	24	28	308
Weighted Average Weekly Rates of Wages	s. d. 26 10	s. d. 27 9	s. d. 27 1	s. d. 24 1	s. d. 37 4	s. d. 25 10	s. d. 27 5
Index-Numbers	979	1,013	988	877	1,362	942	1,000*

\* Weighted Average.

It will be seen that nominal rates of wages for female workers are highest in Western Australia, followed in the order named by Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales, Tasmania, and South Australia.

**5. Weighted Average Rates of Wages Payable to Adult Female Workers in Industrial Groups, 31st December, 1914.**—The following table gives separate particulars regarding the nominal rates of wages of females in the chief industrial groups in which they are employed, and also shews the weighted average for all groups combined. Index-numbers based on the average nominal wage for the Commonwealth as (= 1000) are also given:—

**Weighted Average Weekly Rates of Wages payable to Adult Female Workers for a Full Week's Work, and Wage Index-Numbers in Industrial Groups, 31st December, 1914.**

Industrial Groups.	No. of Rates Included.	Weighted Aver. Weekly Wage (for Full Week's Work).	Index-Numbers
		s. d.	
III. Food, Drink, etc. . .	35	23 5	855
IV. Clothing, Boots, etc. . .	114	24 11	909
I., II., V., VI. Other Manufacturing . .	84	27 0	986
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	57	30 2*	1,101
XIV. Shop Assistants, Clerks, etc.	18	31 4	1,143
All Groups . . .	308	27 5	1,000†

\* The value of Board and Lodging (estimated at 15s. per week) is included, where supplied, in order that the results may be comparable with the rates paid in other industries. † Weighted Average.

# SECTION IX.—VARIATIONS IN NOMINAL AND EFFECTIVE WAGES.

1. **General.**—From the beginning of the year 1913, records have been kept of all changes in rates of wages and hours of labour, the number of workers affected, and the methods by which such changes are brought about. The results of these records have been published in the quarterly Labour Bulletins and in Labour Report No. 5. In order to supplement the results thus obtained, investigations have been made regarding rates of wages in past years with a view to shewing their general trend in each State and in various industrial groups. The methods adopted for the collection of the data and computation of the results were explained in Report No. 2 (see pages 23-4), and will not be repeated here. The particulars given in this section shew variations in nominal wages from year to year in each State and in various industrial groups. Index-numbers are also given shewing variations in effective wages in each State.

The total number of occupations for which particulars are available back to 1891 is 652. In 1913, however, the scope of the investigation was extended, and particulars for that year are available for no fewer than 3948 occupations. The wages on which the index-numbers are based are, in the majority of cases, minimum rates fixed by industrial tribunals, but in some cases, particularly in the earlier years when no minimum rates had been fixed for many trades, either union or predominant rates have been taken.

2. **Variations in Nominal Wage Index-Numbers in States, 1901 to 1914.**—The following table shews, by means of index-numbers, the variations in wages for all industries in each State, the weighted average wage for the Commonwealth in 1911 being taken as base (= 1000) These results are based generally upon rates of wages prevailing in the capital towns of each State, but in certain industries, such as mining, agriculture, etc., rates are necessarily taken for places outside the metropolitan areas:—

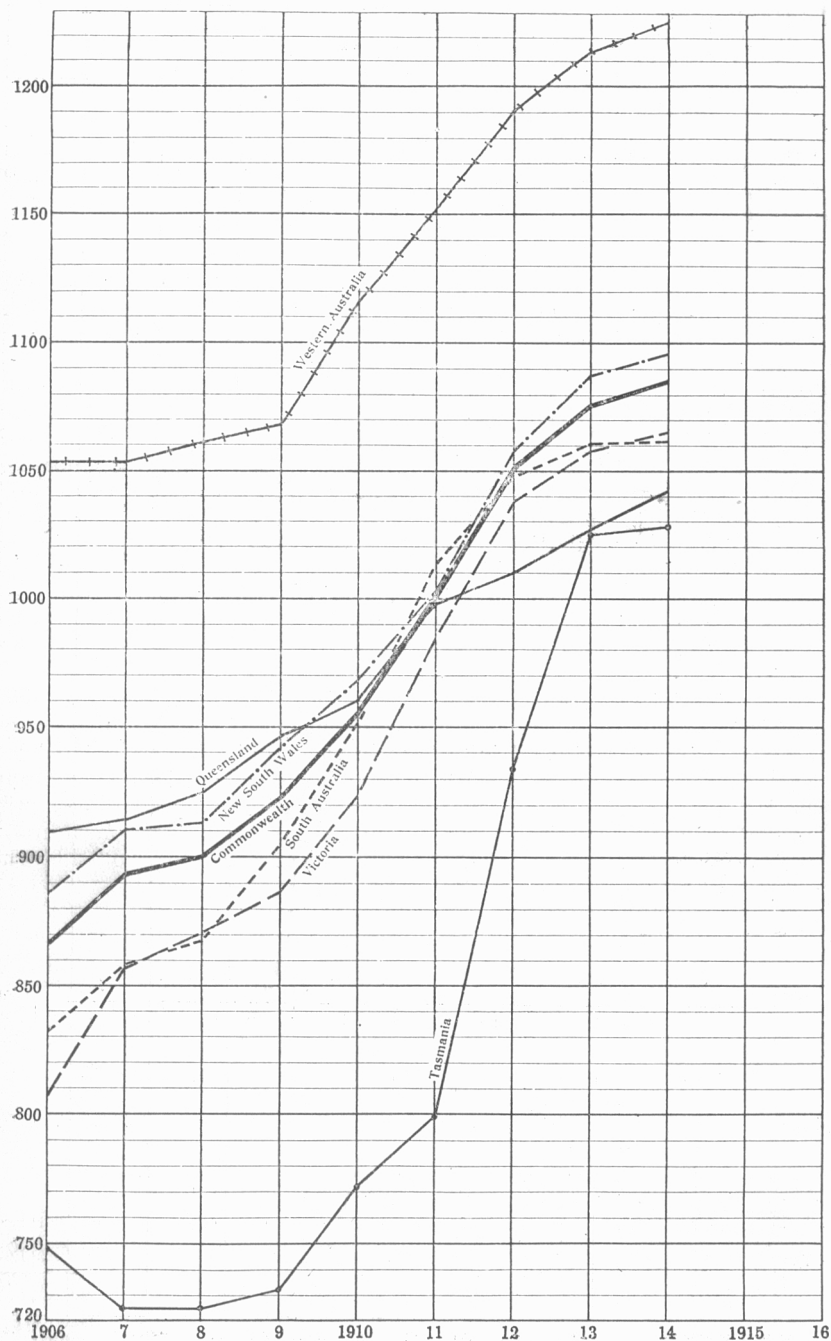
## Variations in Nominal Wage Index-Numbers in different States, 1901 to 1914.

(Weighted Average Wage for Commonwealth in 1911=1,000.)

Particulars.	No. of Occupations included.		1901.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
	1901 to 1912.	1913-14.										
New South Wales ..	158	874	858	886	910	913	942	968	1,003	1,058	1,088	1,096
Victoria .. ..	150	909	796	807	857	871	887	924	985	1,038	1,058	1,065
Queensland .. ..	87	627	901	909	914	925	946	960	997	1,010	1,027	1,042
South Australia ..	134	567	819	832	858	868	905	951	1,013	1,048	1,061	1,062
Western Australia ..	69	489	1,052	1,053	1,053	1,061	1,068	1,116	1,152	1,191	1,214	1,226
Tasmania .. ..	54	482	719	749	725	725	732	772	799	934	1,025	1,028
Commonwealth*	652	3,948	848	866	893	900	923	955	1,000	1,051	1,076	1,085

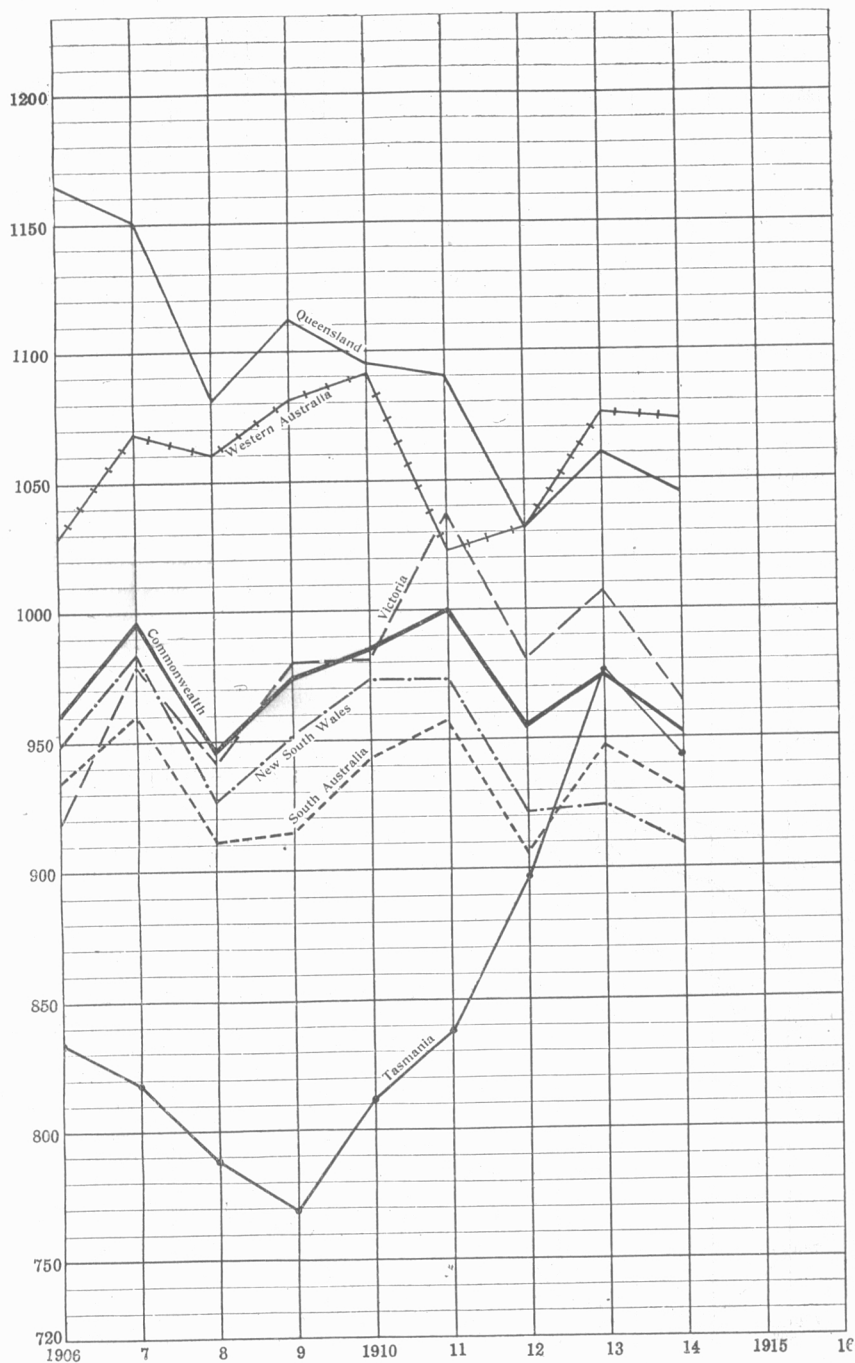
\* Weighted Average ; see graph on page 260.

NOMINAL WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS IN EACH STATE AND COMMONWEALTH,  
1906 to 1914.





EFFECTIVE WAGE INDEX-NUMBERS IN EACH STATE AND COMMONWEALTH,  
1906 to 1914.



The significance of the above figures since 1906 can be better appreciated by reference to the graph on page 260 which shows, of course, not only variations in wages in each State from year to year, but also the difference in wage level as between the several States. From this graph it is clearly seen that, excluding Western Australia, the difference between nominal wages in the several States has decreased very considerably since 1906. This difference is shewn at any point by the vertical distance between the graphs. Wages in Queensland increased during 1914 at a higher rate than in any other State, and though the general level in that State is now only a little higher than in Tasmania, it is gradually approaching South Australia, where the rate of increase in 1914 was slower than in any other State. The graphs for Victoria and South Australia lie very close together throughout the period. In Tasmania the first determination under the Wages Boards Acts, 1910 and 1911, came into force in 1911. In 1912 and 1913 wages in that State increased very rapidly, and their general level is now not far below those of the other States, except Western Australia.

Between 1906 and 1914 the increase in wages was greatest in Tasmania (37.2 per cent.), followed in the order named by Victoria (32.0 per cent.), South Australia (27.6 per cent.), Queensland (25.6 per cent.), New South Wales (23.7 per cent.), and Western Australia (16.4 per cent.).

Comparing 1914 with 1901, the increase was greatest in Tasmania (43.0 per cent.), followed in the order named by Victoria (33.4 per cent.), South Australia (29.7 per cent.), New South Wales (27.7 per cent.), Western Australia (16.5 per cent.), and Queensland (15.6 per cent.). As the index-numbers are comparable throughout, it may be seen from the last vertical column that nominal wages are highest in Western Australia, followed in the order named by New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia (nearly equal), Queensland and Tasmania.

**3. Variations in Nominal Wage Index-Numbers in Industrial Groups, 1901 to 1914.**—The following table shews variations in nominal wage index-numbers, the occupations having been classified in fourteen industrial groups. As already pointed out, these index-numbers are comparable throughout, and shew, not only the variations in wages in each industrial group, but also the relative wages as between the several groups:—

**Variations in Nominal Wage Index-Numbers in different Industries in the Commonwealth, 1901 to 1914. (Weighted Average Wage for all Groups in 1911 = 1,000.)**

Particulars.	No. of Occupations included.		1901.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
	1901 to 1912.	1913-14.										
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	27	270	1,019	1,024	1,049	1,051	1,055	1,097	1,125	1,144	1,142	1,161
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	101	636	945	957	971	989	995	1,006	1,064	1,104	1,113	1,127
III. Food, Drink, etc.	34	576	871	887	902	905	914	928	991	1,038	1,074	1,085
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	13	124	708	841	856	867	935	976	981	990	1,019	1,034
V. Books, Printing, etc.	25	205	996	1,002	1,010	1,021	1,070	1,102	1,149	1,188	1,234	1,246
VI. Other Manufacturing	102	875	907	906	905	915	923	947	1,013	1,037	1,076	1,093
VII. Building	67	190	1,050	1,070	1,105	1,114	1,130	1,163	1,213	1,245	1,270	1,276
VIII. Mining, Quarries, etc.	71	161	1,067	1,093	1,117	1,116	1,120	1,168	1,194	1,216	1,270	1,272
IX. Rail and Tram Services	68	224	1,021	1,024	1,027	1,031	1,064	1,074	1,113	1,164	1,165	1,165
X. Other Land Transport	9	70	795	795	813	836	836	889	910	993	996	1,026
XI. Shipping, etc.	74	198	751	778	787	787	856	857	871	942	953	972
XII. Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.	8	72	627	671	730	736	787	798	839	944	965	965
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	17	114	598	606	608	626	727	743	887	894	918	935
XIV. Miscellaneous	36	233	759	771	812	820	843	889	929	1,015	1,045	1,054
All Groups*	652	3,948	848	866	893	900	923	955	1,000	1,051	1,076	1,085

\* Weighted Average; see graph on page 260 hereof. † The slight decrease in this group is due to a reduction in the award rates in the Furniture trade in New South Wales, resulting from an appeal made by employers.

It may be seen that the index-numbers for all groups increased during the whole period under review. The increase from 1901 to 1914 was greatest in Groups XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.), and XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.), amounting to no less than 56.4 and 53.9 per cent., respectively, while Group IV. (Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.), shews an increase during the same period amounting to 46 per cent. The increase in Group XIV. (Miscellaneous), amounted to 34.9 per cent., while increases of over 20 per cent. occurred in Groups III. (Food, Drink, etc.), V. (Books, Printing, etc.), VI. (Other Manufacturing), VII. (Building), X. (Other Land Transport), and XI. (Shipping, etc.). The remaining groups shew increases ranging from 13.93 per cent., in the case of Group I. (Wood, Furniture, etc.), to 19.3 per cent. in Group II. (Engineering, Metal Works, etc.).

The increase in 1914, compared with the previous year 1913, for all groups amounts to 0.9 per cent. It may be seen that increases occur in all the groups in 1914 except Groups IX. (Rail and Tram Services), and XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.), which remained stationary.

#### 4. Variations in Effective Wages in each State, 1901 to 1914.—

In order to obtain an accurate measure of the progress of wage-earners, regard must be had to the purchasing power of wages, and the index-numbers based merely upon records of rates of wages must consequently be subject to some correction, inasmuch as they take no account of variations in cost of living. The following table shews the effective wage index-numbers for each State for each of the years indicated from 1901 to 1914.

In computing these effective wage index-numbers the nominal wage index-numbers given in paragraph 2 hereof have been divided

by the cost-of-living index-numbers in Section IV., paragraph 5 of Report No. 5. The resulting index-numbers shew for each State and for the Commonwealth for the years specified the variations in *effective* wages.

**Variations in Effective Wages in each State and Commonwealth, 1901 to 1914.**

Particulars.	1901.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
N.S.W. ..	961	949	983	926	952	973	973	922	924	909
Victoria ..	915	919	979	941	980	981	1,037	981	1,007	964
Queensland	1,172	1,165	1,151	1,081	1,112	1,095	1,090	1,032	1,060	1,045
S. Aust. ..	948	934	960	911	914	943	957	906	947	929
W. Aust. ...	1,024	1,029	1,068	1,060	1,081	1,091	1,023	1,032	1,076	1,073
Tasmania	827	833	818	788	769	812	838	896	976	943
C'wealth ..	964	960	996	946	974	985	1,000	955	975	952

The figures in the above table from the year 1906 onwards are shewn in the graph on page 261. A comparison between this graph with that on the opposite page shews that the difference between nominal and effective wages is very marked. In the first place, the whole nature of the graphs is entirely different. Instead of having a series of lines shewing a practically continuous and rapid upward trend, the effective wages shew (except for Tasmania) a series of fluctuating points, in which no very marked tendency is immediately discernible. It will be seen that, generally speaking, the years 1907, 1909, 1910, 1911, and 1913 were marked by increases in effective wages, but that in each of the years 1908, 1912, and 1914 there were rapid decreases. Each of these years in which effective wages declined were years of severe drought, when there was a rapid increase in cost of living (see graph on page 210). In 1914 wages increased 0.9 per cent., but cost of living went up 3.1 per cent., with the result that effective wages decreased 2.3 per cent.

One important feature common to both graphs (nominal and effective wages) is the manner in which the graphs for the individual States have, on the whole, approached more closely together. With the adoption of differential rates of wages fixed according to the relative cost of living, it appears probable that this tendency will continue in the future.

The relative positions of the States shewn in the two graphs is also of interest. Queensland is lowest but one in regard to nominal wages, but is nearly as high as Western Australia in regard to effective wages. New South Wales, which comes second in nominal wages, is last in effective wages. South Australia changes from the fourth to the fifth place, Victoria retains the third, and Tasmania changes from last to fourth. Western Australia is first in regard to both nominal and effective wages, but its level above the other States is much less with respect to effective than nominal wages.

**5. Variations in Effective Wages and Standard of Comfort, 1901 to 1914.**—In the preceding paragraph particulars are given as to variations in effective wages in each State, due allowance having been made for variations in cost of living, though not for unemployment. For years prior to 1913 the data available as to unemployment are so meagre that comparative results allowing for variations both in cost of living and in unemployment cannot be

accurately computed for the several States. In the subjoined table, however, the percentage of unemployment for the whole Commonwealth at the end of the years specified has been used in order to obtain results shewing the variations in unemployment upon effective wages. Column I. shews the nominal rate of wage index-numbers (see paragraph 2 hereof), and Column II. the relative percentages unemployed (see Section II.). Applying these percentages to the numbers shewn in Column I., and deducting the results from each corresponding index-number, so as to allow for relative loss of time, the figures in Column III. are obtained. These figures are then re-computed with the year 1911 as base, and are shewn in Column IV. In Column V. the cost of living index-numbers are shewn, and in Columns VI. and VII. the effective wage index-numbers are given, firstly, for full work, and, secondly, allowing for lost time. These are obtained by dividing the figures in Columns I. and IV., respectively, by the corresponding figures in Column V. The resulting index-numbers shew for the Commonwealth for the years specified the variations in *effective* wages or in what may be called the "standard of comfort."\*

A comparison between the figures in Columns I. and VI. shews the relation between the nominal rates of wages and the purchasing efficiency of these rates. The figures in Column VII. (see graph on page 210) shew variations in *effective* wages after allowing not only for increased cost of living, but also for the relative extent of unemployment.

**Unemployment, Cost-of-Living and Nominal and Effective Wage Index-Numbers, 1901 to 1914.**

Year.	I. Nominal Wages Index- Numbers.	II. Percentage Unem- ployed.	Rate of Wages Index- Numbers, allowing for Lost Time.		V. Cost-of- Living Numbers.	Effective Wage Index-Numbers.	
			III. Actual.	IV. Recom- puted. (1911 =1,000).		VI. Full Work	VII. Allowing for Unemploy- ment.
1901 .. ..	848	6.6	793	832	880	964	945
1906 .. ..	866	6.7	808	848	902	960	940
1907 .. ..	893	5.7	842	884	897	996	986
1908 .. ..	900	6.0	846	888	951	946	934
1909 .. ..	923	5.8	870	913	948	974	963
1910 .. ..	955	5.6	901	945	970	985	974
1911 .. ..	1,000	4.7	953	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912 .. ..	1,051	5.5	993	1,042	1,101	955	946
1913 .. ..	1,076	5.3	1,021	1,071	1,104	975	970
1914 .. ..	1,085	11.0	966	1,014	1,140	952	889

The above figures for the years 1906 to 1914, inclusive, are shewn in the graph on page 210. It may be seen from the graph that the nominal wage index-number has steadily increased, and that the increase has been at a somewhat greater rate (except in the years 1908, 1912, and 1914) than the increase in the cost of living. Owing to the

\* This expression must not be confused with "standard of living." A change in the standard of living necessarily involves a change in regimen (see Labour Report No. 1), that is, a change in the nature or in the relative quantity of commodities purchased, or both. A change in the "standard of comfort" merely implies a variation in effective wages, which variation may, or may not, result in, or be accompanied by, a change in the "standard of living."

decreases in these three years the effective wage index-numbers (both "Full Work" and "Allowing for Unemployment") do not, on the whole, shew any general increase, but fluctuate between a range which reached its maximum in 1911, and its minimum in 1908, except in the case of the index-numbers "Allowing for Unemployment," which reached a minimum in 1914. In 1907 there was a large decrease in unemployment, which is reflected in the "peak" in the effective wage index-number for that year. The rise in the cost of living in 1908, which was a drought year, caused a considerable fall in effective wages. From that year, however, until the year 1911, the effective wage index-number steadily increased from 934 to 1000, but this increase was almost counterbalanced by the fall in 1912, which was due to the large increase in cost of living and the smaller increase in unemployment. In 1913 the cost-of-living index-number was practically the same as that for 1912, while nominal wages increased and unemployment decreased, with the result that the effective wages index-numbers, both for full work and allowing for unemployment, shew an increase. The effective wage index-numbers for 1914 both shew a decrease since the preceding year. This decrease is particularly marked in the case of the index-numbers in which allowance is made for unemployment.

## SECTION X.—OPERATIONS UNDER ARBITRATION AND WAGES BOARD ACTS.

1. **General.**—In Labour Report No. 5 (pages 61 to 63) particulars were published of operations under the Commonwealth and State Arbitration and Wages Board Acts up to the 30th September, 1914. Records for the ensuing quarter shew that, mainly owing to suspension of proceedings on account of the war, there was, on the whole, a considerable falling-off in the number of awards and determinations made and industrial agreements filed. This is seen in the following statement, which shews the number of awards or determinations made and agreements filed in each State and under the Commonwealth legislation in each quarter of 1914:—

### Awards and Determinations made and Industrial Agreements Filed in each Quarter of 1914.

State, etc.	1st Quarter.		2nd Quarter.		3rd Quarter.		4th Quarter.	
	Awards or Deter- min- ations made.	Agree- ments Filed.	Awards or Deter- min- ations made.	Agree- ments Filed.	Awards or Deter- min- ations made.	Agree- ments Filed.	Awards or Deter- min- ations made.	Agree- ments Filed.
New South Wales ..	15	8	32	28	38	32	12	4
Victoria ..	15	..	14	..	15	16	3	..
Queensland ..	9	..	11	3	16	10	5	..
South Australia ..	1	3	1	..	..	..	..	6
Western Australia ..	2	10	2	5	3	3	2	3
Tasmania ..	..	..	2	..	4	..	..	..
Commonwealth Act ..	..	5	4	10	2	..	..	21*
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>34</b>

\* Of this number, 18 agreements were made between the Federated Enginedrivers' and Firemen's Association and various employers.

There is a fundamental difference between the various systems as regards the period for which awards and determinations remain in force. Thus in New South Wales and Western Australia, as well as under the Commonwealth Act, awards are made for definite periods, and at the end of the periods specified they lapse unless revised or renewed. In the other States, however, determinations and awards are made for indefinite periods, and remain in force until reviewed. The result is that in New South Wales, owing to the suspension of operations under the Act, there were at the end of the year 1914 no fewer than 59 industries for which boards were in existence, but for which no award was in force,\* while in Western Australia out of 14 awards which expired during the year 1914, only one was reviewed. It is understood that the provisions of the awards which have expired are being observed.

The number of industrial boards in existence in New South Wales on the 31st December, 1914, was 217, while the total number of awards of Boards and of the Court in force on that date was 242. In Victoria there were on the same date 134 Wages Boards in existence, affecting about 150,000 employees. Of these, 129 Boards had made 133 determinations which were in force. All the Boards authorised, with the exception of four, had met for the purpose of fixing wages, hours, etc. The number of Wages Boards authorised in Queensland up to the 31st December, 1914, was 101, of which the authorisation was subsequently rescinded in one instance, the employees affected numbering about 90,000. In 89 cases determinations were in force, including an award by the Industrial Court, under sec. 7 of the Industrial Peace Act 1912 for an industry not under a Board. Under the Industrial Peace Act 1912, all Boards established under previous Acts continued in existence, and their determinations were recognised. In South Australia there were, at the end of December, 1914, 56 trades under Boards, covering about 25,000 employees. Fifty-five determinations were in force, including five made by the Industrial Court, in lieu of Wages Boards, on the Minister for Industry reporting the inability to appoint Boards as authorised, or the failure of the constituted Boards to discharge the duties required under their appointment. One award was made by the Court on an application from the employees in the paint manufacturing industry, and another for the engineers at Port Pirie engaged at the works of the Broken Hill Proprietary Limited was made after a compulsory conference had been held by the President. In Western Australia awards have been made under "The Industrial Arbitration Act 1912" for 46 Industrial Unions, but only 13 remained in force on the 31st December, 1914, owing to the fact that 33 awards had expired between 4th December, 1912, and the 31st December, 1914, and had not been reviewed by the Court at the latter date. The Wages Boards system was inaugurated in Tasmania in 1911. Up to 31st December, 1914, resolutions authorising the

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\* In addition, there were 31 Boards in existence, for which no award had been made at the end of 1914.



appointment of 27 Boards had been carried in Parliament, and 23 Boards had made determinations, one remained to be constituted, while the other three had not made any determination. The number of Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Court awards in force on the 31st December, 1914, was reduced to 18, owing to the decision of the High Court, with respect to the Tramway awards.

**2. Boards Authorised, and Awards, Determinations and Agreements in Force, 31st December, 1914.**—The following tabular statement gives particulars of operations under the various Acts up to the end of December, 1914:—

**Boards Authorised and Constituted, Awards, Determinations and Agreements in Force, 31st December, 1914.**

Particulars.	C'wth.	N.S.W.	Vic.*	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total
<b>1. Boards Authorised, Constituted, and in Force—</b>								
Number of Boards authorised ...	...	230*	139	101	56	...	27	553
"    "    constituted ...	...	238*	135	94	51	...	26	544
"    "    dissolved or superseded† ...	...	21	1	1	...	...	...	23
"    "    in existence ...	...	217*	134	93	51	...	26	521
<b>2. Boards Constituted which have made Awards or Determinations—</b>								
Number of Boards which had made or varied awards or determinations ...	...	186	129	92	47	...	23	477
"    "    which had not made any award or determination ...	...	31	5	1	4	...	3	44
<b>3. Number of Awards and Determinations in Force‡</b> ...	18	242	133	89§	55	13¶	26	576
<b>4. Scope of State Awards and Determinations‡—</b>								
Number applying to the whole State ...	...	17	10	...	...	19	50	
"    "    Metropolitan area only ...	...	63	...	30	54	8	1	156
"    "    Metropolitan and Country towns ...	...	41	109	12	...	...	6	168
"    "    Country areas ...	...	121	14	43	1	5	...	184
<b>5. Number of Commonwealth Awards in Force in each State</b> ...	...	16	17	15	15	8	12	...
<b>6. Industrial Agreements in Force</b> ...	179	78	...	10	17	85	...	369
<b>7. Number of Commonwealth Agreements in Force in each State</b> ...	...	96	76	28	34	29	30	...
<b>8. Number of Persons working under State Awards and Determinations (estimated) ...</b>	...	**	150,000	90,000	25,000	**	**	**

\* Excluding Special Demarcation Boards. † Boards constituted and subsequently dissolved or superseded. In New South Wales 21 Boards were dissolved owing to alteration in the sectional arrangement of industries and callings. In Victoria one Board was superseded by three Boards. In Queensland authorisation for one Board was subsequently rescinded. ‡ In addition, 5 awards and determinations had been made, but had not come into operation on the 31st December, 1914. Of that number 4 were in Queensland, including 2 which were subsequently suspended pending the hearing of appeals, and 1 in Victoria. The figures are exclusive of awards and determinations which had expired by effluxion of time, and had not been renewed on the 31st December, 1914. § Including an award made by the Industrial Court under Sec. 7 of the Industrial Peace Act 1912, for an industry not under an Industrial Board. || Including 7 awards made by the Industrial Court. ¶ Including an industrial agreement, declared by the Industrial Court, under Section 40 of the Industrial Arbitration Act 1912, to be a common rule for the timber industry in the South-West Industrial Division. \*\* Not available.

The total number of Boards authorised up to the 31st December, 1914, in the five States in which the Board system is in force was 553; the total number constituted being 544, of which 23 had been dissolved or superseded. The number of Boards in existence at that date was accordingly 521, of which 477 had either made original awards or determinations or varied existing awards or determinations, and 44 had not made any award or determination. The difference between the number of Boards in existence and the number which had made awards or determinations, is accounted for mainly by the fact that in New South Wales a number of Boards constituted under the Act of 1912 had not made awards, owing to existing awards made under the Act of 1908 being still in force. In the following line (Number of Awards and Determinations in force) it may be seen that the total number in force (including awards made by the Commonwealth and Western Australian Arbitration Courts) was 576. In New South Wales, the number of awards in force includes 36 awards under the Act of 1908. This leaves 206 awards in force made by 186 Boards under the new Act. In explanation of the fact that the number of awards in force in New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania exceeds the number of Boards which had made such awards or determinations, it may be mentioned that several of the Boards have made separate awards for different districts or for different branches of an industry.

The following four lines in the table shew the territorial scope of the State awards and determinations in force at the end of December, 1914. It will be seen that 50 apply to the whole of a State, 156 to one of the metropolitan areas, 168 to metropolitan and country towns, while the remaining 184 apply to country areas only.

Of the Commonwealth awards there are four in connection with the shipping industry, two in connection with Waterside workers, and one each affecting Postal Electricians and the Telegraph and Telephone (Construction) Linemen, which apply to each of the six States. There are three awards which apply to five States, three which apply to four States, and four to two States.

The total number of industrial agreements in force (including agreements under section 24 of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act) was 369. The second last line of the table shews the number of Commonwealth agreements operating in each State. The total number of awards, determinations and agreements in force under the various Acts at the end of December, 1914, was 945, comprising 576 awards and determinations and 369 agreements.

## SECTION XI.—ASSISTED IMMIGRANTS.

1. **General.**—In the following table particulars are given of the total number of immigrants, the cost of whose passage was wholly or partly defrayed by the State Governments, up to the end of the year 1908, and the number arriving in each year since that date:—

**Commonwealth.—Number of Assisted, Selected, or Nominated Immigrants.**

Particulars.	To end of 1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	Total.
No. of Immigrants ..	660,065	9,820	16,781	39,796	46,712	37,445	20,805	831,424

During the six years 1909 to 1914, inclusive, the average number of assisted immigrants was 7140 per quarter, and the average number in 1914 was 5201 per quarter. The number of assisted immigrants arriving during the fourth quarter of 1914 was 3915, and during the third quarter 5025, hence the number arriving during the fourth quarter of 1914 was 45 per cent. lower than the average for the six years 1909 to 1914, 22 per cent. below the number arriving during the third quarter of 1914, and 25 per cent. below the average number for 1914. The total number of assisted immigrants arriving in 1914 was 20,805, or 45 per cent. less than the number arriving in 1913. Of these immigrants, 9196 were selected and 11,609 nominated.

**2. Number of Assisted Immigrants in each State, October to December, 1914.**—The following table shews the number of selected and nominated immigrants arriving in each State during the fourth quarter of the year 1914:—

**Assisted Immigrants.—Number Arriving in each State, October to December, 1914.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'wlth.
Selected ..	412	931	261	..	57	..	1,661
Nominated ..	821	572	557	55	212	37	2,254
TOTAL	1,233	1,503	818	55	269	37	3,915

The number of selected immigrants during the fourth quarter of 1914 was 42 per cent. of the whole, as against 49 per cent. for the preceding quarter, and 44 per cent. for the whole of the year 1914. During the fourth quarter of 1914 the number of selected immigrants was 1661 as against 2489 for the previous quarter, a decrease of 33 per cent., while the respective numbers of nominated immigrants were 2254 and 2536, a decrease of 11 per cent. The total numbers of assisted immigrants for the corresponding periods were 3915 and 5025, a decrease of 22 per cent. With the exception of Western Australia, in which there was an increase of 9 per cent., there was a decrease in every State, New South Wales shewing a decrease of 30 per cent., Victoria 11 per cent., Queensland 25 per cent., South Australia 69 per cent., and Tasmania 33 per cent.

3. Number of Assisted Immigrants, Classified in Industrial Groups, Oct. to Dec., 1914.—The following table gives particulars of assisted immigrants of each sex, classified according to industrial groups, dependants being specified separately:—

Assisted Immigrants.—Classified according to Sex and Industrial Group,  
October to December, 1914.

Industry.	Males.	Females.	Industry.	Males.	Females.
I. Wood, Timber, Furniture, etc. . . . .	20	1	IX. Rail and Tramway Transport . . . . .	11	..
II. Engineering, Metals, etc. . . . .	26	4	X. Other Land Transport . . . . .	21	..
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. . . . .	22	12	XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc. . . . .	2	..
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. . . . .	31	46	XII. Agricultural, Pastoral, Rural, etc. . . . .	995*	7
V. Books, Printing, Binding, etc. . . . .	9	3	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. . . . .	9	610
VI. Other Manufacturing . . . . .	13	9	XIV. General Labour and Miscellaneous . . . . .	186	59
VII. Building . . . . .	52	..	Dependants (Adults . . . . .	73	724
VIII. Mining . . . . .	26	..	Children under 12 years . . . . .	486	458
			TOTAL . . . . .	1,982	1,933

\* Including 175 "Dreadnought Boys" who arrived in New South Wales.

As regards males, the number of dependants was 559, or 28 per cent. of the whole, and of the balance 995, or 50 per cent., were in Group XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.). Of these agricultural immigrants 238 (including 175 "Dreadnought Boys"), arrived in New South Wales, 536 in Victoria, 179 in Queensland, 37 in Western Australia, and 5 in Tasmania. The greater number of these immigrants were selected, only 93, or 9.4 per cent., having been nominated.

Of the 1933 female immigrants 1182, or 61 per cent., were dependants, and 610, or 32 per cent., were in Group XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.), and of the latter number 447, or 73 per cent., were selected, and 163, or 27 per cent., nominated. The numbers of females in Group XIII. arriving in the various States were:—New South Wales 237, Victoria 283, Queensland 76, Western Australia 11, and Tasmania 3.

## SECTION XII.—STATE FREE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX.

1. **General.**—In the following paragraphs particulars are given of the operations of the various State Labour Bureaux. In Labour Report No. 5 (pages 85-8), attention was drawn to the fact that the systems adopted in the several States for the registration of applications for work and of applications from employers are not uniform, and that the comparisons which can be drawn from the figures shewing the result of the operations of these Bureaux are subject to certain limitations. Figures relating to the operations of the Victorian State Labour Bureau are not available for the last quarter of 1914, and in the comparisons made in the following paragraphs the figures for that State for the previous, as well as the present quarter, are omitted.

2. **Applications and Positions Filled in each State.**—The following table shews the number of applications for employment and from employers, and the number of positions filled in each State, omitting Victoria, during the fourth quarter of 1914. It will be seen that the total number of applications for employment was 19,919, as against 17,597 for the preceding quarter, an increase of 13.2 per cent.; the total number of applications from employers 8638, as against 9750, a decrease of 11.4 per cent.; and the number of positions filled 7270, as against 6601, an increase of 10.1 per cent.

**State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications for Employment and from Employers, and Positions Filled in different States, October to December, 1914.†**

State.	Applications for Employment.			Applications from Employers.			Positions filled.
	On Live Register at Beginning of Quarter.	Received during Quarter.	Total.	Vacant at Beginning of Quarter.	Notified during Quarter.	Total.	
New South Wales .. ..	..	4,462	4,462	683	2,828	3,511	*2,963
Victoria† .. ..	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Queensland .. ..	669	2,178	2,847	21	1,624	1,645	*1,278
South Australia .. ..	1,218	4,907	6,125	..	1,519	1,519	*1,519
Western Australia .. ..	682	5,776	6,458	75	1,887	1,962	1,509
Tasmania .. ..	1	26	27	..	1	1	1
COMMONWEALTH‡ .. ..	2,570	17,349	19,919	779	7,859	8,638	7,270

\* Including persons who received advances of travelling expenses from the Labour Bureau, but who were not directly engaged through the medium of that institution. † Not available. ‡ Exclusive of Victoria.

NOTE.—Any deductions which can be drawn from the above figures as to the relative state of the labour market in the several States are subject to certain limitations, inasmuch as the scope and functions of the Bureaux are by no means identical. (See Remarks on pages 85 to 88 of Labour Report No. 5.)

During the fourth quarter of 1914 there were 433 positions, as against 554 positions during the preceding quarter, open for every 1000 applications from workers. Except in Tasmania, where there was only one application from employers, the proportion of positions available to number of applications was lowest in South Australia, with 248 positions for every 1000 applications, followed by Western Australia (303), Queensland (578), and New South Wales (787). Out of every 1000 applicants for vacancies, 365 (as against 375 for the preceding quarter) obtained work, while 841 vacancies (against 677) were filled out of every 1000 offered.

### 3. Applications and Positions Filled in Various Industrial Groups.

—The following table furnishes particulars for the fourth quarter of the current year of the operations of the State Labour Bureaux, classified according to industrial groups:—

State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications for Employment and from Employers, and Positions Filled in different Industrial Occupations, October to December, 1914.¶

Industrial Group.	Applications for Employment.			Applications from Employers.			Positions filled.
	On Live Register at Beginning of Quarter.	Received during Quarter.	Total.	Vacant at Beginning of Quarter.	Notified during Quarter.	Total.	
I. Wood, Furniture, Saw-mill, Timber Workers, etc. . . . .	23	148	171	..	27	27	23
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.* ..	83	546	629	..	75	75	69
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. . . . .	5	158	163	1	29	30	28
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	2	49	51	19	16	35	7
V. Books, Printing, etc. . .	10	48	58	2	5	7	5
VI. Other Manufacturing	1	89	90	..	3	3	3
VII. Building . . . . .	180	1,339	1,519	..	677	677	638
VIII. Mining . . . . .	33	194	227	..	98	98	98
IX. Rail and Tram Services†	1,027	5,491	6,518	500	2,238	2,738	2,506
X. Other Land Transport	3	70	73	..	13	13	9
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc. . . . .	1	21	22	..	3	3	3
XII. Agricultural, Pastoral, Rural, etc.‡ . . .	294	1,912	2,206	70	1,421	1,491	1,221
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	14	1,877	1,891	185	1,372	1,557	930
XIV. General Labour and Miscellaneous § . .	894	5,407	6,301	2	1,882	1,884	1,730
TOTAL.¶ . . . .	2,570	17,349	19,919	779	7,859	8,638	7,270

\* Including railway and tramway workshops. † Excluding railway and tramway workshops, but including construction and maintenance of permanent way and works. ‡ Including horticultural, viticultural and gardening. § Excluding railway and tramway employees and labourers employed on railway and tramway construction and maintenance. || Including persons in New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia, who received advances of travelling expenses from the Labour Bureaux, but who were not directly engaged through the medium of that institution. ¶ Exclusive of Victoria, for which State no return is available.

It may be seen that in every group there were more applicants for work than positions vacant. Of the six groups in which the number of applicants was over 500, the over-supply of labour was most marked in Group II. (Engineering, etc.), with only 119 vacancies for every 1000 applications for work, followed by Group XIV. (Miscellaneous, etc.), with 299 vacancies, Group IX. (Rail and Tram Services) with 420 vacancies, Group VII. (Building) with 446 vacancies, Group XII. (Agricultural, etc.), with 676 vacancies, and Group XIII. (Domestic, etc.), with 823 vacancies for every 1000 applications.

4. **Applications and Positions Filled, Males and Females.** — Of the total number of registrations for employment, 18,289 were from males, and 1630 from females. Of the 1630 female applicants for employment, 1522 were in Group XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.); 839 registrations being reported from New South Wales, 49 from Queensland, 632 from Western Australia, and 2 from Tasmania, in this Group; but of the 8638 applications from employers, 7303 were for male employees, and 1335 for female. Of the latter number 1306 were in Group XIII., 511 of these being reported from New South Wales, 49 from Queensland, and 746 from Western Australia.

Regarding positions filled, 6440 males, or 35.2 per cent. of the applicants, obtained positions, as against 830 females, or 50.9 per cent. Of the 830 positions obtained for female employees 813 were in Group XIII., and of these 421 were in New South Wales, 49 in Queensland, and 343 in Western Australia. In New South Wales 45.8 per cent., in Queensland 95.5 per cent., and in Western Australia 53.9 per cent. of the female applicants obtained positions.

The following table gives particulars, for male and female workers separately, of the number of applications for employment, and from employers, and the number of positions filled:—

**State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications and Positions Filled, Males and Females, October to December, 1914.\***

Particulars.	Applications for Employment.			Applications from Employers.			Positions filled
	On Live Register at Beginning of Quarter.	Received during Quarter.	Total.	On Live Register at Beginning of Quarter.	Received during Quarter.	Total.	
Males .. .. .	2,570	15,719	18,289	592	6,711	7,303	6,440
Females .. .. .	..	1,630	1,630	187	1,148	1,335	830
TOTAL* .. .. .	2,570	17,349	19,919	779	7,859	8,638	7,270

\* Exclusive of Victoria, for which State no particulars are available.



## SECTION XIII.—INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

## 1. Number of Accidents Reported during Years 1913 and 1914.—

The following table shews the number of accidents which occurred in each State during each of the years 1913 and 1914:—

## Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in each State during the Years 1913 and 1914.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	C'with.
No. of Fatal Accidents (1914)	61	26	25	3	31	13	159
(1913)	82	24	33	5	34	7	185
No. of Accidents incapacitating for over 14 days (1914)	3,238	367	384	84	763	76	4,912
(1913)	3,427	308	286	117	813	79	5,030

Compared with 1913, the number of accidents shews decreases of 26, or 14.1 per cent., and 118, or 2.4 per cent. for fatal and non-fatal accidents, respectively. Information as to the class of accidents included in these returns, the districts covered, and the sources of information, may be found in Report No. 5, pages 92-4.

The number of accidents reported in 1914 classified in industrial groups is as follows:—

## Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in various Industrial Groups, 1914.

Industrial Group.	Fatal	Incap'itated for over 14 days.	Industrial Group.	Fatal	Incap'itated for over 14 days.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	3	280	VII. Building and Scaf-		
II. Engineering, etc. ..	5	253	folding .. ..	14	27
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	6	116	VIII. Mining .. ..	112	3,937
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc. ..	..	37	IX. Lifts .. ..	5	4
V. Books, Printing, etc	1	90	X. Miscellaneous ..	2	21
VI. Other Manufacturing	11	147			
			TOTAL .. ..	159	4,912

2. Number of Accidents Reported in each State during Fourth Quarter, 1914.—The following table shews the number of fatal accidents and of accidents causing incapacitation for work for over 14 days in each State reported under the Acts referred to in Labour Report No. 5 (pages 92-3). The total figures for the third quarter of the year 1914 are also shewn.

**Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in each State during Fourth Quarter, 1914.**

Particulars.	N. S. W.	Vic.	Q'land	S. A.	W. A.	Tas.	C'wealth.	
							4th Qr. 1914	3rd Qr. 1914
No. of Fatal Accidents	14	7	4	..	14	1	40	34
No. of Accidents incapacitating for over 14 days .. ..	520	92	122	15	221	16	986	1,285

The average number of fatal accidents for each quarter of 1913 was 46, and the number for the third quarter of 1914 was 34, hence the number of accidents for the fourth quarter of 1914, viz., 40, is below the average for 1913, but above the number for the preceding quarter.

The average number of non-fatal accidents for each quarter of 1913 was 1257, and the number for the third quarter of 1914 was 1285, so that the number occurring during the fourth quarter of 1914, viz., 986, was 271 (or 21.6 per cent.) below the average for 1913, and 299 (or 23.3 per cent.) below the number occurring during the preceding quarter.

**3. Number of Accidents reported in each Industrial Group during Fourth Quarter, 1914.**—The following table gives similar particulars as to accidents in the various industrial groups:—

**Industrial Accidents.—Number Reported in various Industrial Groups during Fourth Quarter, 1914.**

Industrial Group.	Fatal.	Incap'itated for over 14 days.	Industrial Group.	Fatal.	Incap'itated for over 14 days.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	..	49	VII. Building and Scaffolding .. ..	4	5
II. Engineering, etc. ..	3	50	VIII. Mining .. ..	26	786
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	1	29	IX. Lifts .. ..	2	2
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc.	..	9	X. Miscellaneous ..	1	1
V. Books, Printing, etc.	1	21			
VI. Other Manufacturing	2	34	TOTAL .. ..	40	986

The largest number of accidents, as in preceding quarters, occurred in the mining industry, which comprised 65 per cent. of the fatal and 80 per cent. of the non-fatal accidents, as compared with 59 per cent. and 79 per cent., respectively, in the preceding quarter. The total

number of fatal mining accidents was 26, compared with 20 in the preceding quarter. In New South Wales there were 7 fatal mining accidents, in Victoria 3, in Queensland 2, in Western Australia 13, and in Tasmania 1. Of these accidents 24 (22 below and 2 above ground) occurred in connection with metalliferous mining, and 2 (all below ground) in coal mining. The total number of non-fatal mining accidents during the fourth quarter of 1914 was 786, as compared with 1020 for the preceding quarter, a decrease of 23 per cent., and of these 436 occurred in New South Wales, 23 in Victoria, 99 in Queensland, 213 in Western Australia, and 15 in Tasmania. Of the non-fatal accidents, 365 occurred in connection with metalliferous mining (223 below ground, 85 on the surface, and 57 in batteries, ore-dressing, and metallurgical works) and 421 in connection with coal mining (349 below ground and 72 on the surface).

In other industries, 14 fatal accidents occurred, the same number as in the preceding quarter, and of these 7 occurred in New South Wales, 4 in Victoria, 2 in Queensland, and 1 in Western Australia. The number of non-fatal accidents, not connected with mining, was 200, as compared with 265 for the preceding quarter, a decrease of 65, or 24.6 per cent.

SECTION XIV.—THE COMMONWEALTH CONCILIATION  
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE COMMONWEALTH  
ARBITRATION (PUBLIC SERVICE) ACT 1911 FOR

1.—COURT

(i.) COMPULSORY CONFERENCE

PARTIES TO CONFERENCE.		PROCEDURE.	INDUSTRY AND LOCALITY AFFECTED.
Employees.	Employers.		
Federated Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association of Australasia.	Commonwealth Steamship Owners' Association and 8 others.	Application made by the Employees' Association.	Shipping Industry. (Lightermen) in Commonwealth.

\* The President may, whenever in his opinion it is desirable for the purpose of preventing or settling a dispute, preside over by himself.

(ii.) PRIVATE

PARTIES TO CONFERENCE.		PROCEDURE.	INDUSTRY AND LOCALITY AFFECTED.
Employees.	Employers.		
Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia.	British India Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. and their Agents, the A.U.S.N. Co. Ltd.	The parties requested Mr. Justice Powers to act as private arbitrator, as the matter was not within the jurisdiction of the Court.	Shipping in Sydney, New South Wales.

(iii.) INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE CERTIFIED TO THE

EMPLOYERS.	EMPLOYEES.
Sir William Vestey and E. H. Vestey, trading as Vestey Brothers.	The Employees of the said Vestey Bros. in the Northern Territory of the Commonwealth of Australia, who are members of The Australian Workers' Union, The Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, The Amalgamated Society of Engineers.

\* The Court shall have cognisance, for the purposes of prevention and settlement, of all industrial disputes.

§ A resume of the main provisions of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Acts, 1904-11,

## AND ARBITRATION ACT 1904-1914.§

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION ACT 1904-1914 AND THE  
THE QUARTER ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1914.

## PROCEEDINGS:

## SUMMONED UNDER SECTION 16 (a).\*

NATURE OF DISPUTE.	DATE OF CONFERENCE.	RESULT.
Claim <i>re</i> Rate of Pay, Hours of Work, Overtime, and Conditions of Employment of Engine Drivers employed as Lightermen by the Companies concerned in the Dispute.	18th Dec., 1914.	Dispute referred into Court on the 18th Dec., 1914. Agreements will be prepared by all the parties interested, to be certified and filed in accordance with Sec. 24 of the Act in full settlement of the Dispute.

an Industrial Dispute, summon any person to attend, at a time and place specified in the summons, at a Con-

## CONFERENCE.

NATURE OF DISPUTE.	DATES OF CONFERENCE	RESULT.
Dispute as to Rate of Pay for Wharf Labourers discharging cargo consisting principally of Linseed and Jute Goods per s.s. "Janus," damaged by sea water. This matter was not provided for in the Award.	Melbourne, and Sydney, 1914, Oct. 22nd, to Nov. 26th.	Decision given on the 26th Nov., 1914, and the matter finally disposed of.

## COURT IN PURSUANCE OF SUB-SECTION 19 (a).\*

DATE CERTIFIED TO COURT.	INDUSTRY AND LOCALITY AFFECTED.	NATURE OF DISPUTE.
1st Dec., 1914.	Building of Refrigerating Works in the Northern Territory of the Commonwealth.	Dispute in respect to Rates of Pay and Hours of Work of Carpenters, Fitters, Plumbers, Blacksmiths, Plasterers, Concrete Workers, Concrete Tradesmen and/or Ordinary Labourers, Casual Labourers unloading at wharf or railway yard at end of wharf, Draymen, Cooks, Kitchenmen, and Waiters.

disputes which are certified to the Court by the Registrar as proper to be dealt with by it in the public interest.

and the Arbitration (Public Service) Act 1911, was given in Labour Bulletin No. 5, pages 53 to 59.

## (iv.) PLAINTS FILED

CLAIMANT.	RESPONDENT.
The Federated Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association of Australasia.	The Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited and 611 others.
†Australian Commonwealth Post and Telegraph Officers' Association.	Public Service Commissioner for the Commonwealth and the Honourable the Postmaster-General.

\* The Court shall have cognisance, for purposes of prevention and settlement, of all Industrial Disputes

† Section 5 of the Arbitration (Public Service) Act 1911, provides that the Court shall have cognisance as if it were an Industrial Dispute within the meaning of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration

## (v). APPLICATION TO VARY AWARD

APPLICANT.	RESPONDENTS.
Commonwealth Steamship Owners' Association.	Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia.
Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia.	Commonwealth Steamship Owners' Association and others.
Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia.	Commonwealth Steamship Owners' Association, Gilchrist, Watt and Sanderson, and others.
Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia.	Commonwealth Steamship Owners' Association, Gilchrist, Watt and Sanderson and others.
Federated Marine Stewards' and Pantrymen's Association of Australasia.	The Commonwealth Steamship Owners' Association and others.
Federated Felt Hatting Employees' Association of Australia. The Denton Hat Mills Limited and others.	The Denton Hat Mills Limited and others. Federated Felt Hatting Employees' Association of Australia.

\* The Court shall, as regards every industrial dispute of which it has cognisance,

## UNDER SUB-SECTION 19 (b).\*

DATE FILED.	INDUSTRY AND LOCALITY AFFECTED.	NATURE OF CLAIM.
10th Sept., 1914.	Mining Reduction, Refining and/or Smelting Works, Dredging, Gas, Water and Municipal Works, Meat Freezing and Cold Storage and various other industries and manufactories in the Commonwealth.	Claim <i>re</i> Hours of Work, Overtime Rates, Sunday Rates, Holiday Rates, Conditions of Employment, etc., for Winding and Locomotive Engine Drivers, and Preference to Unionists.
18th Sept., 1914. New South Wales Registry.	Postal Service in the Commonwealth.	Claim <i>re</i> Salaries, Terms and Conditions of Service of Postmasters, Postmistresses, Officers of the Clerical Division, Postal Assistants, Assistants and Senior Assistants, also Monitors.

which are submitted to the Court by an organisation by plaintiff, and of complaints submitted by an organisation of employees in the Public Service of the Commonwealth Act 1904-14.

## UNDER SECTION 38 (o).\*

NATURE OF APPLICATION.	DATES OF HEARING.	RESULT.
Application that Award 1 of 1914 be varied by imposing obligations upon the Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia to supply labour at any time required by the Respondents bound by the Award, and in particular the labour required to work at discharging coal vessels after 5 p.m. on the first day of arrival of the said coal vessels, and on Saturday afternoons.	Melbourne, 1914, Aug. 21st to Nov. 10th.	Judgment delivered on the 2nd Nov., and Order made varying Award on the 10th Nov., 1914.
Application that Award 1 of 1914 be varied in so far as it relates to the Mackay (Queensland) Branch of the Waterside Workers' Federation.	Melbourne, 1914, Aug. 21st to Nov. 10th.	Judgment delivered on the 2nd Nov., and Final Order made varying Award on the 10th Nov., 1914.
Application that the Awards 1 of 1914, and 14 of 1914, be varied in so far as they relate to the Port of Brisbane.	Melbourne, 1914, Dec. 1st and 4th.	Judgment was delivered on the 4th Dec., 1914, the Order varying Award to date from the 1st Dec., 1914.
Applications for orders varying Awards 1 of 1914, and 14 of 1914, in so far as they relate to the Melbourne and Port Phillip Branches of the Waterside Workers' Federation, and/or the determination by the Board of Reference for the Victorian District relating to the minimum number of men that should be employed in the hold of a vessel when loading or unloading cargo.	Melbourne, 1914, Oct., 29th to Dec. 4th.	Judgment delivered on the 4th Dec., 1914. Application refused.
Application for order varying Award No. 4 of 1909, made on the 10th May, 1910.	Melbourne, 1914, Dec. 21st.	Application was made to the Court by the Employees' Association for leave to withdraw application for variation of Award. Granted.
Two applications for variation of Award No. 13 of 1912.	Melbourne, 1914, Oct. 22nd to Dec. 24th.	Judgment delivered on 24th Dec., 1914, varying Award.

have power to vary its orders and awards and to re-open any question.



## (vi.) APPLICATION FOR ORDER OF

APPLICANT.	RESPONDENT.
Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia.	The Commonwealth Steamship Owners Association, Gilchrist, Watt and Sanderson and others.
Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia.	Gilchrist, Watt and Sanderson and others.
Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia.	Gilchrist, Watt and Sanderson and others.
Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia.	Gilchrist, Watt and Sanderson and others.
Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia.	Commonwealth Steamship Owners' Association and others.
Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia.	Gilchrist, Watt and Sanderson and others.
Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia.	Commonwealth Steamship Owners' Association and others.

\* The Court may, on the application of any party to an Award, make an order in

## MANDAMUS UNDER SECTION 48.\*

NATURE OF APPLICATION.	DATES OF HEARING.	RESULT.
Application for Orders in the nature of a Mandamus or Injunction to compel the Commonwealth Steamship Owners' Association and 8 others to comply with the terms of the Awards No. 1 of 1914, and/or No. 14 of 1914, and Industrial Agreements therein in respect to the Port of Brisbane.	Melbourne, 1914, Nov. 10th and 13th.	Judgment delivered on the 13th Nov., 1914. Application refused.
Application for Order in the nature of a Mandamus or Injunction to compel the Interstate Steamship Co. Ltd. (Scott, Fell & Co.), to comply with the terms of the Award No. 14 of 1914, and the Industrial Agreement therein in respect to Rate of Pay for the working of Bulk Coke as Special Cargo Rates.	Sydney, 1914, Nov. 19th.	Judgment delivered 19th Nov., 1914, stating that bulk coke was not special cargo. Application refused, but right reserved to parties to make further application for the purpose of varying the Award or obtaining payment of rate due on Ordinary cargo.
Application for Mandamus or Injunction to compel the Stevedoring and Shipping Co. Ltd. of Sydney to comply with the terms of the Award No. 14 of 1914, in respect to "Attendance and Waiting for the purposes of the Employer."	Sydney, 1914, Nov. 25th.	Judgment delivered on the 25th Nov., 1914. As the Respondent agreed to pay the amounts in dispute, no order was made, but the Applicant was granted liberty to apply later for the Order if necessary.
Application for Mandamus or Injunction to compel the Interstate Steamship Co. Ltd. (Scott, Fell & Co.) to comply with the terms of the Award No. 14 of 1914, in respect to Rate of Pay due for working on bulk coke.	Sydney, 1914, Nov. 26th.	As the Counsel for the Respondent Company agreed to pay the rate claimed no Order was made, but liberty was granted to the Applicants to apply at any time for the Order asked for if necessary.
Application for Mandamus or Injunction to compel the Melbourne Steamship Co. Ltd. to comply with the terms of the Award No. 1 of 1914, in respect to Rates of Pay for Working on Bagged Coke in the Port of Sydney as Special Cargo.	—	Judgment delivered on the 26th Nov., 1914. Bagged Coke was held to be Special Cargo under the Award, but on the assurance of Counsel for the Respondent Company that the rate payable for Special Cargo will be paid on Bagged Coke, no Order was made, liberty being granted to Applicants to apply later for the Order if necessary.
Application for Mandamus or Injunction to compel Charles Lundin and I. W. Alexander Ltd., of Sydney, to comply with the terms of the Award 14 of 1914, in respect to time occupied by travelling both ways to and from the job being computed as time of duty (i.e., in attendance or waiting for the purposes of the employer).	Sydney, 1914, Nov. 26th.	Judgment was delivered on 26th Nov., 1914. The Deputy-President held that under Special Agreement adopted by the Award, travelling time is only payable on the way to ship moored in Harbour. The application was therefore dismissed.
Application for Mandamus or Injunction to compel The North Coast Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. of Sydney to comply with the terms of the Award 1 of 1914 in respect to the Payment of Overtime worked at Lismore.	Sydney, 1914, Dec. 10th, 11th.	Judgment delivered on 11th December. Application dismissed on the ground that the matter of overtime as to Lismore had not been provided for in the Award.

the nature of a mandamus or injunction to compel compliance with the Award.

## (vii.) APPLICATIONS FOR PENALTIES FOR

APPLICANT.	RESPONDENTS.	INDUSTRY AND LOCALITY AFFECTED.
Federated Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association of Australasia.	The Clyde Engineering Company Limited, and The Electrolytic Refining and Smelting Company of Australasia Ltd.	Engineering Works, Refining and Smelting Works in N.S.W.
The Victorian Stevedoring and General Contracting Co. Pty. Ltd.	The Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia and 21 of the Members of the said Federation.	Waterside Workers employed in the Shipping Industry at the Port of Melbourne, Victoria.
Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia.	Stevedoring and Shipping Co. Ltd. of Sydney, N.S.W.	Waterside Workers employed in the Shipping Industry in the Port of Sydney, N.S.W.

\* No person shall wilfully make default in compliance

## 2.—REGISTRAR'S

## (i.) ORGANISATION OF EMPLOYERS

NAME OF ORGANISATION.	CONSTITUTION.
The United Licensed Victuallers' Association of the Commonwealth of Australia.	Membership consists of Hotelkeepers, Owners of Hotel Properties, Brewers, Wine and Spirit Merchants, and their respective Travellers, and any Member of any Licensed Victuallers' Association at present in existence in any State of the Commonwealth of Australia.

\* Any employer or association of employers employing not less than one hundred employees in or in

## (ii.) ORGANISATION OF EMPLOYEES

NAME OF ORGANISATION.	CONSTITUTION.
The Railway Workers' and General Labourers' Association of New South Wales.	Membership consists of Railway and Tramway Employees and General Labourers.
† General Division Telephone Traffic Officers' Association.	Membership consists of any General Division Employee of the Commonwealth Public Service occupying the position of supervisor, monitor, or telephonist engaged in telephone traffic work.
† The Ammunition and Cordite Workers' Union of Australia.	Membership consists of any number of Employees engaged in the Manufacture and Preparation of Ammunition, Cordite, Explosives and Fireworks throughout the Commonwealth, exclusive of Engineers, Engine Drivers, Firemen, Carpenters, and also exclusive of Foremen or Forewomen who have power to discharge hands.

\* Any Association of not less than one hundred employees in or in connection with any industry, may be

† In Sections 1 to 4 of The Arbitration (Public Service) Act 1911 provides that an Association of Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904-14.

## (iii.) CHANGE OF NAME OF ORGANISATION

NAME OF ORGANISATION
The Municipal Employees' Association of Australia.
The Hospital and Asylum Attendants' and Employees' Union.

## BREACHES OF AWARDS UNDER SECTION 49.\*

NATURE OF APPLICATION	DATE OF HEARING.	RESULT.
Six Applications for Penalties for Breaches of Awards in respect to Wages Payable under the said Awards.	Sydney, 1914, 6th & 18th Aug., and 26th Nov.	Deputy-President decided that these cases would have to be restated before any Penalties could be imposed by the Court.
Application for Penalties for Breaches of Award in respect to the "Minimum number of men that should be employed in the hold," and having stopped work thereby delayed the discharging of the Cargo of Baltic Timber per the s.s. "Altona."	Sydney, 1914, 10th and 11th Dec.	Application dismissed. As no provision made in either Melbourne Agreement or in Award, as to the minimum number of men, the Deputy-President held that (as under provisions of Melbourne Interstate Agreement) six men must be employed at Melbourne on oversea vessels. Held also that the organisation and/or its members are not justified in interpreting the Award and refusing to work every time they think a Respondent is not observing the said Award.
Application for Penalties for Breaches in 3 Cases of Award in respect to Payment due for attendance and/or waiting for the purposes of the Employer—as time on duty.	—	It was agreed by Counsel for the Respondent that the amounts in question were to be paid. No Order was made, but the Deputy-President granted Applicant the right to apply for a Penalty if the necessity arose through non-payment.

with any order or award. Penalty—Twenty pounds.

## OPERATIONS.

## REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 55 (a).\*

NUMBER OF MEMBERS.	REGISTERED.		REGISTERED OFFICE AND ADDRESS.
	State.	Date.	
1391	N.S.W.	12/11/14.	164 Pitt-street, Sydney, New South Wales.

connection with any industry may be registered in the manner prescribed as an organisation.

## REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 55 (b).\*

NUMBER OF MEMBERS.	REGISTERED.		REGISTERED OFFICE AND ADDRESS.
	State.	Date.	
13,700	N.S.W.	12/12/14.	"Tara," Australia-street, Camperdown, N.S.W.
110	Vic.	22/12/14.	Post Office, Malvern, Victoria.
667	Vic.	23/12/14.	Footscray, Victoria.

registered in the manner prescribed as an organisation.

Employees in an industry in the Public Service of the Commonwealth may be registered under the

## UNDER STATUTORY RULES 1913, No. 331, REG. 17.

CHANGED TO.	DATE.
Federated Municipal Employees' Association of Australia.	20th October, 1914.
The Hospital, Dispensary and Asylum Attendants' Union of Australia.	29th October, 1914.

## SECTION XV.—CONCILIATION IN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

1. **General.**—In the various industrial arbitration Acts now in force in Australia, provision is made for the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes by the following four methods, viz., (i.) Conciliation; (ii.) Arbitration; (iii.) Registration of industrial agreements; and (iv.) the Prohibition of strikes and lockouts. In this Section a review is given of the various steps that have been taken from time to time in regard to the first of these methods, viz., Conciliation. It will be seen that, in the earlier Acts, attempts were generally made to initiate a system of voluntary conciliation, i.e., conciliatory tribunals which had no power to compel the parties concerned to attend. This form of conciliation was not, however, successful, and in tracing the history of the various measures, the reasons for the failure of voluntary conciliation are indicated.\* The failure led to the adoption of conciliation by means of *compulsory* conferences, for which provision is now made in the Arbitration Acts in force in the States, as well as in the Commonwealth legislation. It should be observed that in the two States, Victoria and Tasmania, where the board system alone is in force, there is, of course, no special provision for the prevention or settlement of industrial disputes either by conciliation or otherwise, though in the latter State strikes and lock-outs on account of any matter in respect of which a board has made a determination are prohibited.

Power to summon parties to a compulsory conference for the purpose of preventing or settling an industrial dispute, by means of conciliation, is conferred by the Commonwealth legislation¶, and by the Acts in force in New South Wales\*\*, Queensland†, South Australia‡, and Western Australia§. In New South Wales provision is also made for voluntary conciliation by means of conciliation committees|.

2. **New South Wales.**—In this State the principle of voluntary conciliation in regard to industrial disputes or claims was first introduced by the Trades Disputes Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1892. This Act suffered from the defects (i.) that it was not compulsory for either party to a dispute to submit its case to the Conciliation and Arbitration Council, and (ii.) that no provision was made for the enforcement of awards in cases submitted to the Council. For these reasons the Act was ineffective, only one case for conciliation and one for arbitration being heard before it fell into abeyance at the end of 1894. On the 1st May, 1899, the Conciliation and Arbitration Act of that year came into force. The Minister was authorised in cases of existing or probable trade disputes to direct inquiry into the causes of the difference, and to take steps to enable the parties to meet with a view to an amicable settlement. In the event of failure the Minister was empowered (a) on the application of either

\* It will be seen, however, that a form of voluntary conciliation introduced in New South Wales by the Industrial Arbitration Act 1912 has met with some measure of success in regard to small disputes in the coal-mining industry.

¶ Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, No. 7 of 1910, sec. 3, now sec. 16A of Act of 1904 as amended. \*\* Industrial Arbitration Act 1912, sec. 43 (2). † Industrial Peace Act 1912, sec. 10. ‡ Industrial Arbitration Act 1912, sec. 11. § Industrial Arbitration Act 1912, sec. 120. | Industrial Arbitration Act 1912, Part V., secs. 38 to 42.

party, either to direct a public inquiry as to the causes of the difference, or to appoint a board of conciliation; and (b) on the application of both parties, to appoint an arbitrator. This Act also proved ineffective, and in the Industrial Arbitration Act 1901, no provision for conciliation was included. The Acts of 1892 and 1899 aimed at the elimination of strikes and lockouts in industrial disputes by providing means for the settlement of matters in issue, but the object of the new Act of 1901, as well as of subsequent Acts, was not merely the settlement of disputes, but also the fixing of minimum wages and the regulation of hours and conditions of labour. By the Industrial Disputes Act 1908, an Industrial Court and a "board" system were introduced, but no provision was made for conciliation. An attempt was, however, made while this Act was in force to arrange some provisional conciliatory machinery pending reconsideration of the whole system by Parliament.\* An Investigation Officer was appointed, his main duties being to intervene when strikes were threatened, and to attempt to arrange some temporary compromise pending an investigation by one of the boards constituted under the Act.

This led to the inclusion in the Industrial Arbitration Act 1912 of provisions for the creation of more ample conciliatory tribunals. These are of two kinds. In the first place a Special Commissioner is authorised to "require the attendance of any persons to meet in conference whenever any question has arisen that in his opinion might lead to a lockout or a strike, and either no board has been constituted which would have jurisdiction in the matter, or he is of opinion that a preliminary and temporary agreement should be made before the matter is submitted to a board."† Though the Commissioner can therefore act only as chairman of a compulsory conference, and is vested with no further powers under the Act, he can, in practice, if he is unable to adjust the matter in dispute, report to the Minister. The Minister can then refer the matter to the Court,‡ which can proceed to investigate the matter and make an award without the intervention of an industrial board. During the period from the 9th October, 1911, to the 31st December, 1913, intervention by the Commissioner in 142 cases had resulted in preventing the stoppage of work in 83 cases, while stoppages were curtailed and concluded in 56 cases, leaving 3 cases in which conciliatory efforts failed.§ Since March 1914 the operations of the Special Commissioner under the Act have been materially limited by a judgment given in that month by the Industrial Court as to the grounds on which an award could be re-opened before the date of its expiry. It was held that since strikes and lockouts are forbidden under the Act, a board cannot hear an application from employers who are locking-out or from employees who are on strike. Similarly, in regard to compulsory conferences, Mr. Justice Heydon stated that "the parties can always confer, of course, and can always be invited to confer, but they cannot be made to do so unless the law is being observed. A union could not be punished. . . . for

\* See New South Wales Industrial Gazette, 1912, Vol. I., No. 1, p. 3.

† See Industrial Arbitration Act 1912, sec. 43 (2).

‡ Ibid., sec. 31 (1) (a). The Minister may refer any matter to the Court or a Board.

§ For review of work of the Industrial Commissioner see New South Wales Industrial Gazette, 1913, Vol. II., p. 808 *et seq.*, and subsequent issues. See Ibid., Vol. IV., pp. 1150-9.

refusing to meet an employer who was locking them out." The result of this decision is that the Commissioner's work is restricted to disputes in connection with which the crisis has not passed the stage of threats to bring about a stoppage of work.\*

The Act of 1912 also provides for conciliatory proceedings by the constitution of Conciliation Committees, consisting of not more than two representatives nominated by the employers and two nominated by the employees, with a chairman either agreed upon by the parties or appointed by the Minister.† Though these committees are required to meet on being summoned by their chairman or at the request of the Minister to enquire into industrial matters, they do not, of course, partake of the nature of compulsory conferences, inasmuch as, firstly, they have no power to compel the parties to attend, and secondly, the representatives may resign, and either employers or employees refuse to nominate other members. The committees are, therefore, voluntary conciliatory bodies only, and have no power to make an award. If an agreement is reached, it can, of course, be registered under the Act. The provision for these committees was made more particularly with the idea of settling disputes in the coal mining industry, an industry in which in New South Wales disputes and stoppages of work are continually arising over comparatively small matters. It was thought that since an award of a board could not anticipate all these minor matters, the constitution of local Conciliation Committees would guarantee immediate inquiry and settlement. Three committees have been constituted, one each for the northern, southern, and western colliery districts. It is stated that the former committee was successful in securing on the northern coalfields an industrial peace and continuity of operation hitherto unknown.‡ The committee reported in November, 1912, that its work was hampered by capricious and unnecessary stoppages of work at different pits, and again in December, 1912, that short stoppages of work recurred for no apparent reason. The result was that in January, 1913, the colliery proprietors withdrew from representation on the committee§, which has not since been re-constituted in a permanent form. The South and Western Colliery Districts Committees have continued to carry on their operations, of which particulars may be found in the New South Wales Industrial Gazette.

**3. South Australia.**—The Conciliation Act, passed in this State in 1894, was the first Act passed in Australia in which the compulsory reference of industrial disputes to a legal tribunal was recognised. Although the principles embodied in this measure have now assumed considerable importance, the Act itself proved abortive. In the case of a dispute between registered organisations, provision was made in the Act (sections 49, 50, and 51) for compulsory reference to a Board

\* See New South Wales Industrial Gazette, 1914, Vol. V., pp. 3 to 5.

† Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912, Part V. (secs. 38 to 42). The Minister is authorised to notify districts, and to constitute a Conciliation Committee for each such district, including a northern, southern, and western colliery district, and any other district in which more than 500 employees work in coal or metalliferous mining.

‡ See New South Wales Industrial Gazette, 1912, Vol. II., p. 132.

§ See *Ibid.*, 1913, Vol. II., p. 806. A record of awards and agreements ratified by the Northern Conciliation Committee is given on pages 963 to 987 of Vol. II. of the Gazette.



of Conciliation, which had jurisdiction (section 37) for the settlement of the dispute by award, which was enforceable (section 55), or merely by report (section 68). Other disputes, viz., those to which registered organisations were not parties, could be referred by the President of the State Board of Conciliation, if he thought it desirable in the public interest (section 39), to the board for investigation and report, which was not, however, enforceable (sections 65, 66, and 67). No organisations were at any time registered under the Act, and only one case came up for hearing by the board.\* A considerable number of the disputes which occurred were so small in extent that the aid of the board was considered by the President to be undesirable in the public interest; in other cases, having regard to the fact that neither employers nor employees were registered under the Act, the machinery of the board could not be beneficially employed for ending the dispute. The President considered that the better course was to use his powers as President (section 39) for reconciling the parties without referring the dispute to the board.† In this way a number of cases were inquired into and settled through the voluntary intervention of the President.

Under section 11 of the Industrial Arbitration Act 1911, the President of the Arbitration Court is empowered to convene a compulsory conference whenever, in his opinion, it is desirable to do so for the purpose of dealing with an industrial matter, or preventing or settling an industrial dispute. In case of a conference having been held, but having proved either partly or wholly abortive, the President may refer the matter into court (section 13), provided, however, that the court has no jurisdiction of any dispute "concerning any industry for which, at the time, a wages board has been or is in course of being appointed, and as to which matter or dispute such board has or will have jurisdiction."

From the time when the Act of 1912 came into force (December, 1912), up to the end of the year 1914, the number of compulsory conferences summoned by the President was 9, of which 6 were convened before stoppage of work and 3 after. Three of the 9 conferences resulted in the settlement of the disputes, 2 by industrial agreements, and 1 by an award of the court.

4. **Western Australia.**—The authority given to the President of the Court by sections 120 and 58 (b) respectively, of the Industrial Arbitration Act 1912, to summon compulsory conferences and to refer

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\* See Report of the State Board of Conciliation in the matter of the Industrial Dispute between Mr. A. Dowie and certain of his employees, April, 1895.

† See Report of the State Board of Conciliation, 1896, and Report on the S.A. Industrial Conciliation Laws, 1903. In the latter Report the President stated that the reasons for the failure of the Act were firstly, that no enforceable award could be given, since no organisations were registered; and secondly, that the provisions of the Act for reference to, and report by the Board could not be beneficially employed for ending a dispute in view of the facts (a) that the employers were banded together for the purpose of resisting any compulsory proceedings by the State Board, (b) that although the employees exhibited a greater willingness for the Board to inquire into the matters in dispute, they had no greater claims upon the services of the Board than the employers, because not one of their unions had assisted to effectuate the purposes of the Act by applying for registration; (c) that the question resolved itself into, whether the State Board, created for the purpose of ending industrial troubles, should itself voluntarily assume the difficult position of becoming prosecutor and judge, so far as one of the parties was concerned, or whether the alternative course of trying to conciliate the parties by the voluntary intervention of the President should be adopted; and (d) that even if the course of compulsion were successfully adopted, such compulsion could end only in the Board making an unenforceable report.

the disputes to the Court are identical with those conferred by the Commonwealth Act (see below). The original Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1900 in this State contained provision (section 45) for the voluntary reference of industrial disputes to Boards of Conciliation. Very few matters were dealt with either by the Boards or Court under this Act, as it was found somewhat defective in several details,\* and was repealed and replaced by the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1902. This Act also provided (section 51) for the voluntary reference of disputes to Boards of Conciliation. The Boards, however, do not appear to have been successful in bringing disputes to a satisfactory conclusion, for a large proportion of the cases dealt with by them were subsequently referred to the Court in order to finally settle the questions at issue. Moreover, the decisions of the Boards on any point connected with the working of the Act were not accepted by the parties as final, and it was found that at the earliest opportunity the same point was brought before the Court before decision.† An examination of the number of cases heard by the Boards shews that the latter did not meet the requirements of the parties. During the years 1901 and 1903, inclusive, 25 cases were heard by Boards of Conciliation, and one case by a Special Board of Conciliators, while 119 cases were determined by the Court of Arbitration. During the years 1904 and 1911, however, no cases were heard by Boards of Conciliation, and only two cases were heard by Special Boards, while the number determined by the Court was 172.‡ The chief reasons for the avoidance of the Boards and for the failure of the system of voluntary conciliation appear to be (a) the want of finality attaching to their recommendations.§ and (b) the fact that their recommendations affected only the parties to the dispute, and not (as in the Court's Awards||) all persons in the industry within the area specified in the award. On examining the Reports of Proceedings it is found that nearly all the cases heard by the Boards were reheard by the Court.¶

Under the compulsory conference provisions of the Act of 1912, seven conferences had been convened by the President up to the end of January, 1915. Of these, five were convened before stoppage of work, and two after. Two of the conferences resulted in industrial agreements, and the disputes were thus settled; in the case of the other five, the conferences were abandoned, and previous working conditions continued. It may be observed that the Western Australian Act contains no such provision as exists in other Acts,\*\* under which an agreement reached at a compulsory conference can be certified by the President and filed in the office of the Registrar, thus having the same effect as an award of the Court.

\* See Report of Proceedings before the Boards of Conciliation and Court of Arbitration, W.A., Vol. 1, 1901-3, p. iii. † Ibid, p. iv.

‡ See Seventh and Eleventh Annual Reports of Proceedings under the Industrial Conciliation Act 1902, pp. 5 and 7, respectively.

§ If the Board and the parties failed to arrange a settlement of the dispute, the Board had power only to make recommendations (sec. 52). The dispute could thereupon be referred to the Court (sec. 56). A dispute could be referred direct to the Court, without first going before a Board (sec. 69), and this was the procedure which came to be almost invariably adopted.

|| Under section 84 (1) (c) of the Act of 1902, an award of the Court must specify the industrial district to which it related.

¶ See Eighth Annual Report for 1908-9 of Proceedings under the Industrial Conciliation, etc., Act 1902, p. 5.

\*\* See Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904, sec. 24. S.A. Industrial Arbitration Act 1912, sec. 15 (2). Queensland Industrial Peace Act 1912, sec. 12 (2).

5. **Queensland.**—Provision for compulsory conferences was introduced in this State by the Industrial Peace Act 1912, section 10 (i.), by which the Judge of the Industrial Court is empowered, in terms similar to those contained in the Commonwealth Act, to convene compulsory conferences. Similarly under section 12 (2) of the Act, if an agreement is arrived at, it must be certified by the Judge and filed in the office of the Registrar, in which case (unless otherwise ordered) it has the same effect, and is deemed to be an award of the Court. There is, however, no provision in the Queensland Act, such as exists in the Commonwealth, South Australian, and Western Australian Acts,\* under which the Judge is empowered, in cases where a compulsory conference has been held, but no agreement reached, to order the parties into Court.

The number of compulsory conferences convened up to the end of February, 1915, was 10, of which six were summoned on the application of employers, while four were convened by the Judge without application from either party. Six of the conferences were convened after, and four before, stoppage of work, and in nine cases the dispute was settled either immediately by industrial agreements or by referring the question to Industrial Boards with a request to consider the advisability of amendment. In the one case in which no agreement was reached the conference was adjourned *sine die*, and steps were taken shortly afterwards for the constitution of an industrial board to govern the matters in dispute.

6. **The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act.**—The principle of compulsory conferences in its present form was introduced by the amending Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1910, sec. 3.† Under sec. 16 of the original Act of 1904, the President is charged "with the duty of endeavouring to reconcile the parties to industrial disputes . . . whether or not the Court has cognisance of them, in all cases in which it appears to him that his mediation is in the public interest." This provision is retained in the Act as amended, but on the second reading in the House of Representatives of the Amending Bill of 1910, the Attorney-General (the Hon. W. M. Hughes, M.P.) stated that this provision had proved a dead letter.‡ The amending Act accordingly gave the President ampler powers under which he can, "whenever in his opinion it is desirable for the purpose of preventing or settling an industrial dispute, summon any person to attend, at a time and place specified in the summons, at a conference presided over by himself."

The President may thus call the parties together and make them confer, and the result of their conference may either be made public or kept private, as the President may determine. While the President has no power under these provisions to compel the parties to come to an agreement, it is stated that the section is of great assistance to

\* See Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904, Sec. 19 (d). S.A. Industrial Arbitration Act 1912, sec. 13. W.A. Industrial Arbitration Act 1912, sec. 58 (b).

† Now section 16A of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904, as amended.

‡ See Commonwealth Hansard, Vol. LV., 1910, p. 745.

the President\* in securing agreements in conference, as the parties know that if they do not agree, the dispute can be forthwith referred into Court, and an award made by Arbitration.†

It is the usual practice of the President, when an application is made to him for a conference under section 16 (a), to have a communication sent to the other parties to the dispute to ascertain if they are of opinion that any good will result from a conference. On two occasions only has the President summoned conferences in the public interest without being requested so to do by either party. The former of these two conferences took place in December, 1910, in regard to the dispute between the Commonwealth Steamship Owners' Association and the Federated Seamen's Union of Australasia, and an agreement was arrived at pending an award of the Court or the making of a new agreement. The second conference convened by the President in the public interest was held in February, 1914, in connection with the dispute between the Commonwealth Steamship Owners' Association and the Waterside Workers' Federation, as to the conditions of employment of wharf labourers and stevedores. In this case also an agreement was reached and filed. The total number of conferences summoned from the date when the provision came into force up to the 1st May, 1914, was 33, of which 17 were convened on the application of employees, nine on the application of employers, and five on the joint application of employers and employees. The remaining two conferences were summoned by the President in the public interest. In two cases applications for conferences, one from employees (the Australian Workers' Union), and one from employers and employees jointly, were refused by the President. Detailed particulars of the results of these conferences may be found in the reports of the Commonwealth Industrial Registrar.‡ Summarised particulars are shewn in the following table:—

**Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act.—Number and Results of Compulsory Conferences, 1910 to 1914.**

Year.	Agreement Reached at Conference.		No Agreement Reached at Conference.		Conference Dissolved or Adjourned <i>sine die</i> .	Total.
	Agreement for Definite Period.	Agreement Pending Hearing and Award by Court.	No further immediate steps taken under Act.	Dispute referred to Court and Award made or Agreement filed.		
1910 .. ..	1	1	1	..	..	3
1911 .. ..	5	1	4	..	1	11
1912 .. ..	4	..	..	1	1	6
1913-14* ..	1	2	..	9	1	13
TOTAL ..	11	4	5	10	3	33

\* From 1st January, 1913, to 1st May, 1914.

\* See Report of Commonwealth Industrial Registrar for the year 1913, and up to 1st May, 1914, p. 4. † Under sec. 19 (d), which provides that the Court has cognisance of "all industrial disputes as to which the President has held a conference under section 16a of the Act, and as to which no agreement has been reached, and which the President has thereupon referred to the Court." This provision was added by section 10 of the Amending Act of 1911, and provides a short manner of giving the Court cognisance of the dispute without the formality of a plaint and answers, so that the hearing can be proceeded with immediately after the dispute is referred into Court.

‡ See Reports of Proceedings taken under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904-11, etc., from 15th December, 1904, to 31st December, 1912, p. 35, and from 1st January, 1913, to 1st May, 1914, pp. 5 to 9.

It should be stated that the results of compulsory conferences do not, in all cases, readily lend themselves to precise statistical analysis. For example, in the above table in two cases included in the column headed "Permanent agreement for definite period," and in which the disputes extended to two States, agreements were arrived at for one State, but not for the other. Again, in the cases of certain conferences included in the column headed "No further immediate steps taken under the Act," agreements were subsequently arrived at between the parties, and were executed and filed.

It will be seen, therefore, that under the machinery provided, a large majority of the conferences convened resulted in a settlement of the matters in dispute, most of which were in important industries and affected a large number of men. It may be said, therefore, that the provisions relating to compulsory conferences in the Commonwealth Act have been of considerable value in settling disputes on matters which, in the absence of intervention, might have resulted in serious industrial disturbances.

7. **Conclusion.**—From what has been stated above it is obvious that voluntary conciliation in industrial disputes has been practically a complete failure. On the other hand the principle of compulsory conferences, introduced by the Commonwealth Act of 1910, and since adopted in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia, has met with a considerable measure of success, although the provisions have not perhaps been in force in some of the States for a period sufficiently long to permit of any very definite conclusions being formed as to their efficacy. As already indicated, the results of operations under the compulsory conference clauses are of such diverse character that they cannot be analysed statistically with precision in summarised form. The following table, however, shews so far as can be ascertained, the number of conferences which resulted directly in the settlement of disputes, and the number which were not directly effective:—

**Results of Compulsory Conferences under Commonwealth and State Legislation.**

State, etc.	Period Included.	No. of Disputes Settled directly through Conferences.	Number of Conferences not Directly Effective.	Total No. of Conferences held.
New South Wales ..	9/10/10 to 31/12/14	139	3	142
Queensland .. ..	1/ 1/13 to 13/12/14	9	1	10
South Australia ..	1/ 1/13 to 13/12/14	3	6	9
Western Australia ..	1/ 1/13 to 13/12/14	7	..	7
Commonwealth Act ..	1/ 1/10 to 31/ 5/14	25	8	33
TOTAL .. ..	..	183	18	201

It may be seen, therefore, that the operations successfully carried out under the compulsory conference provisions are considerable. At the same time it should be pointed out that the total number of conferences resulting directly or indirectly in settlement of disputes, appears to be comparatively small in relation to the number of disputes which occur. Thus the number of successful conferences included for various periods in the above table is 183, while the number of strikes and lockouts that occurred in the four States specified during the two years 1913 and 1914 is 453.

## SECTION XVI.—TRADE UNIONISTS AND OTHERS IN THE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

**1. Trade Unionists and the Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force.**—In February last inquiries were made from the secretaries of all trade unions in the Commonwealth as to the number of members who had enlisted in the Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force. Returns were received for 624 unions, comprising a total membership of 435,557. Complete particulars as to the total number of unions and their membership are not yet available for the year 1914, but an estimate, based on the figures for 1913, shews that the number of unions (excluding those having female members only) at the end of 1914 is about 730, and the number of male members about 505,000. It appears, therefore, that the returns received in this inquiry cover over 85 per cent. of the total number of unions, and over 86 per cent. of the members.

The total number of unionists included in the returns as having joined the Expeditionary Force is 20,111, or 4.62 per cent. of the total membership of those unions for which returns are available. Assuming that this percentage applies to the male members of all unions in the Commonwealth, the total number of unionists in the Expeditionary Force would be about 23,300. Assuming further that the age distribution among unionists is the same as that for males in the Commonwealth over 18 years of age, the number of unionists over 18 and under 45 years of age would be 344,000. The percentage of the total estimated number of unionists who have joined the Expeditionary Force (23,300) on the total number of members within the eligible age group (344,000) is therefore 6.77.

The total number of males in Australia over 18 and under 45 years of age is approximately 1,110,000, and deducting the 344,000 unionists between these ages, it is seen that the total number of males not belonging to a union and within the eligible age limitations is about

766,000. The total number of persons who had joined the Expeditionary Force up to the end of January is about 53,900, including, therefore, about 23,300 unionists and 30,600 persons not members of any union. This shews, therefore, that as regards persons not members of unions, 4 per cent. of those within the eligible age limitations had joined the Expeditionary Force up to the end of January last, compared with 6.77 per cent. of eligible unionists.

These results are shewn in the following table, which, as already stated, is based on returns received from the trade union secretaries:—

**Commonwealth Expeditionary Force, Estimated Number and Percentage of Unionists and of other Persons within Eligible Age Limitations Enlisted up to 31st January, 1915. (Based on Returns from Trade Unions.)**

Particulars.	Total Estimated No. of Persons over 18 and under 45 Years of Age.	Estimated No. of Persons. Enlisted.	Percentage of Estimated No. Enlisted to No. in Eligible Age Group.
	No.	No.	Per cent.
Members of Unions	344,000	23,300	6.77
Other Persons*	766,000	30,600	4.00
TOTAL . . . .	1,110,000	53,900	4.85

\* Including employers, persons working on own account, employees, and others not being members of any trade union.

**2. Number of Unionists enlisted in each State, 31st January, 1915.**

—The returns received from the secretaries of unions have been classified by States, and also in industrial groups. The following table shews for each State and the Commonwealth the number of unions for which returns are available, the total number of members of these unions and the estimated number within the eligible age limitations, the number of members of these unions enlisted, and the percentage of members enlisted to number of eligible members:—

**Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force, Number and Percentage of Trade Unionists Enlisted in each State, 31st January, 1915.**

State.	No. of Unions from which Returns Received.	No. of Members of Unions for which Returns available		No. of Members Enlisted.	Percentage.	
		Total No.	Estimated No. over 18 & under 45 Years of Age.		No. Enlisted on Total No. of Members.	No. Enlisted on No. of Members Eligible.
					per cent.	per cent.
N.S. Wales ..	183	200,141	136,292	10,553	5.27	7.74.
Victoria ..	141	106,344	72,418	3,422	3.22	4.73
Queensland ..	72	49,507	33,714	1,645	3.32	4.88
Sth. Australia	79	38,088	25,937	2,424	6.36	9.35
W. Australia	93	33,682	22,937	1,636	4.86	7.13
Tasmania ..	56	7,795	5,308	431	5.53	8.12
Total, C'wealth	624	435,557	296,606	20,111	4.62	6.77



3. Number of Unionists enlisted classified in Industrial Groups, 31st January, 1915.—Particulars similar to those shewn in the preceding table are given below for the whole Commonwealth in industrial groups:—

**Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force, Number and Percentage of Trade Unionists Classified in Industrial Groups, 31st January, 1915.**

Industrial Group.	No. of Unions for which Returns Received.	No. of Members of Unions for which Returns Available.		No. of Members En-listed.	Percentage.	
		Total No.	Estimated No. over 18 and under 45 Years of Age.		No. En-listed on Total No. of Members	No. En-listed on No. of Members Eligible.
					per cent.	per cent.
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. . . . .	19	18,171	12,374	704	3.87	5.69
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . . . .	56	22,771	15,507	717	3.15	4.62
III. Food, Drink, etc. . . . .	67	35,063	23,877	958	2.73	4.01
IV. Clothing, Hats, etc. . . . .	24	13,212	8,997	268	2.03	2.98
V. Books, Printing, etc. . . . .	26	8,490	5,782	184	2.17	3.18
VI. Other Manufacturing . . . . .	74	23,534	16,026	853	3.62	5.32
VII. Building . . . . .	62	35,441	24,135	1,281	3.61	5.31
VIII. Mines, Quarries, etc. . . . .	26	35,888	24,439	2,014	5.61	8.24
IX. Rail and Tram Services . . . . .	30	62,116	42,300	2,174	3.50	5.14
X. Other Land Transport . . . . .	23	16,539	11,263	822	4.97	7.30
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc. . . . .	54	32,057	21,830	1,538	4.80	7.05
XII. Agricultural, Pastoral, etc. . . . .	11	34,066	23,198	5,170	15.18	22.29
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. . . . .	19	8,786	5,983	289	3.29	4.83
XIV. Miscellaneous . . . . .	133	89,423	60,895	3,139	3.51	5.15
TOTAL, ALL GROUPS . . . . .	624	435,557	296,606	20,111	4.62	6.77

It will be seen that the percentage of members enlisted in Group XII. (Agricultural, Pastoral, etc.) is exceptionally high. This is due mainly to the large number of members of the Australian Workers' Union included in the returns as having enlisted. No particulars are, however, available for the Victoria-Riverina branch of that union. The relatively high percentage in Group X. (Other Land Transport) is due to the number of chauffeurs, etc., enlisted in the motor transport corps. It will be seen that the percentage of enlistments in non-urban industries, i.e., agricultural, pastoral, etc., mining, quarries, etc., and shipping, etc., is above the average.

## SECTION XVII.—REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS AND BUREAUX IN AUSTRALIA.

*(In this Section particulars are furnished of Reports received each quarter from Departments and Bureaux in the Commonwealth specially affecting labour and industrial matters).*

### A.—NEW SOUTH WALES.

1. New South Wales Industrial Gazette, December 1914 to February 1915. (Sydney, Government Printer.)

### B.—VICTORIA.

1. Twenty-eighth Annual Report on Trade Unions. (Melbourne, Government Printer.)

### B.—QUEENSLAND.

1. Report of the Director of Labour and Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops for the Year Ended 30th June, 1914. (Brisbane, Government Printer.)
2. Regulations and Rules of Court under the Industrial Peace Act of 1912. (Brisbane, Government Printer.)

### D.—SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

1. Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for the Year 1913. (Adelaide, Government Printer.)

## SECTION XVIII.—IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

*(In this Section particulars are furnished of Reports specially affecting labour, received each quarter from other countries)*

### A.—UNITED KINGDOM.

1. Board of Trade Labour Gazette, October to December 1914. (London, T. Fisher Unwin.)
2. Report on Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom in 1913. (London, T. Fisher Unwin.)
3. Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops 1913. (London, T. Fisher Unwin.)
4. Statistics of Compensation and of Proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Act during the Year 1913. (London, T. Fisher Unwin.)
5. Co-operative Wholesale Societies Limited Annual, 1915. (Manchester, published by the Co-operative Wholesale Society.)
6. Bulletin of the International Labour Office, Vol. IX. No. 7. (Woolwich, The Pioneer Press Limited.)
7. The World's Labour Laws, November 1914. (Woolwich, The Pioneer Press Limited.)

## B.—CANADA.

1. **The Labour Gazette**, October to December 1914. (Ottawa, Government Printer.)

## C.—NEW ZEALAND.

1. **Journal of the Department of Labour**, September 1914 to February 1915. (Wellington, Government Printer.)
2. **Awards, Agreements and Decisions under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act**, Vol. XV., Parts 7, 8, 9, Awards Nos. 3905 to 3996. (Wellington, Government Printer.)

## D.—UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

1. **Department of Labour, Bureau of Labour Statistics**. Bulletin No. 141. Lead Poisoning in the Smelting and Refining of Lead. (Wellington, Government Printing Office.)
2. **District of Columbia**. First Report of the Commission on Industrial Relations. (Chicago, Barnard and Miller.)
3. **Hawaii**. Third Report of the Board of Immigration, Labour and Statistics. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Gazette Company Limited.)
4. **Kansas**. Twenty-eighth Report of the Bureau of Labour and Industry. (Topeka, State Printer.)
5. **Maryland**. Twenty-second Report of the Bureau of Statistics and Information. (Baltimore, State Printer.)
6. **Massachusetts**. (a) Wages and Hours of Labour in the Paper and Wood Pulp Industry; (b) Twenty-seventh Quarterly Report on Unemployment; (c) First Report of the Industrial Accident Board; (d) Statistics of Manufactures, 1913. (Boston, Wright and Potter Printing Co.)
7. **Minnesota**. (a) Employment of Women; (b) Child Labour. (Minneapolis, H. W. Wilson Co.)
8. **New York. Labour Bulletins**. (a) No. 61, Idleness of Organised Wage-earners in the First Half of 1914; (b) No. 66, Strikes and Lockouts in 1912 and 1913; (c) No. 67, International Trade Union Statistics; (d) No. 68, Statistics of Industrial Accidents in 1912 and 1913. (Albany, J. B. Lyon Co.)
9. **Ohio**. (a) Bulletin of the Industrial Commission No. 2; (b) Department of Investigation and Statistics Report No. 2; (c) Boiler Inspection Law; (d) State Building Code; (e) Mining Laws of Ohio. (Columbus, F. J. Heer Printing Co.)
10. **Virginia**. Seventeenth Report of the Bureau of Labour and Industrial Statistics. (Richmond, State Printer.)
11. **The Anthracite Coal Combination in the United States**. E. Jones, Ph.D. (Cambridge, Harvard University Press.)

## E.—FRANCE.

1. **Bulletin of the Minister of Labour**, August-September 1914. (Paris, Berger-Levrault.)

## F.—GERMANY.

1. **Bulletin of the International Union of Woodworkers**, Nos. 9 and 10, 1914. (Berlin, published by the Union.)

## G.—HOLLAND.

1. **Monthly Journal of the Central Bureau of Statistics**, September to November 1914. (La Hague, Gebr. Belinfante.)

## H.—ITALY.

1. **Monthly Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour**, July, August 1914. (Rome, Officina Poligrafica Italiana.)
2. **Semi-monthly Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour**, Nos. 19 to 24. (Rome, Officina Poligrafica Italiana.)
3. **Census of Industries**, Vol. III. Motive Power and Numbers of Persons Employed. (Rome, G. Bertero and Co.)

## I.—NORWAY.

1. **Industrial Statistics, Vol. III. Hours of Labour in 1910.** (Christiania, H. Aschehoug and Co.)
2. **Hours of Labour in Industries, 1913.** (Christiania, H. Aschehoug and Co.)

## J.—SPAIN.

1. **Bulletin of the Institute for Social Reform**, Nos. 123 to 125, 1914. (Madrid, M. Minuesa de los Ríos.)

## K.—SWEDEN.

1. **Social Review** (Journal of the Swedish Labour Department), Nos. 9 and 10, 1914. (Stockholm, P. A. Norstedt and Sons.)
2. **Labour Disputes in 1913.** (Stockholm, P. A. Norstedt and Sons.)
3. **Prices of Commodities and Rents, 1910-1912.** (Stockholm, P. A. Norstedt and Sons.)
4. **Conciliation in 1913.** (Stockholm, P. A. Norstedt and Sons.)
5. **Economic Journal**, Nos. 7 to 11, 1914. (Upsala and Stockholm, Almqvist and Wiksell.)

## L.—ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

1. **Bulletin of the Department of Labour**, Nos. 27 and 28, 1914. (Buenos Aires, Alsina Printing Office.)

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